

The Japan Weekly Mail.

A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL," must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, APRIL 5TH, 1884.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

A COUNTRY residence for the Empress Dowager is in process of construction at Ikao.

THE Spring Meeting of the Nippon Race Club is advertised for the 8th, 9th, and 10th of May.

A COMPETITIVE exhibition of isinglass was opened at Shimashita, in the province of Settsu, on the 21st ultimo. There were 123 exhibitors.

News from Korea says that the best Chinese troops have been recalled, presumably with a view to their employment in Tonquin.

AN appropriation of 5,000 yen has been made to defray the expenses of Japanese Exhibits at the approaching Dendrological Exhibition in England.

A FIRE occurred in Shirokane-cho, Tokiyo, on the 30th ultimo, destroying 72 houses and injuring 19.

A SERIOUS epidemic of small-pox is reported from Nagasaki and Kumamoto. The disease is said to be spreading to Fukuoka and Kagoshima.

ON the 30th ultimo, H.I.M. the Emperor went on a hunting expedition to Renkoji, in the Prefecture of Kanagawa.

A NAVAL regatta was held on the Sumida-gawa, Tokiyo, on the 2nd instant. His Majesty the Mikado was present. The programme included fifteen races, of which fourteen were for men-of-

war's men and one for cadets. A number of torpedoes were also exploded.

EXPRESSIONS of condolence on account of the death of His Royal Highness the Duke of Albany have been conveyed from the Imperial Household to H.B.M. Legation.

A VOLCANO in Mount Aso, province of Higo, has broken out into active eruption, and discharged considerable quantities of ashes and scorix over the neighbouring country.

THE Mitsu Bishi steamship *Kinoye Maru* ran down a junk of 55 *koku* burthen, near the island of Natsu, Sagami, on the 19th ultimo. One life was lost.

AN elaborate code of rules for the control of persons engaged in transactions with second-hand goods has been compiled and published.

It is reported that the Korean Government proposes to send a Representative to Peking, thus, for the first time, asserting Korea's complete independence of China.

THE *Tokiyo Statistical Journal* has published some curious figures showing that the number of thefts committed throughout Japan vary, with almost mathematical regularity, as the price of rice.

A NOTIFICATION has been issued by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, embodying a set of Regulations regarding the engagement and discharge of sailors in vessels of foreign build owned by Japanese.

THE late master of the *Akitsuishima Maru* has appealed, to the *Kōso Saibansho*, from the judgment of a Marine Court (assembled under the authority of the Minister of Agriculture) which suspended his certificate.

ONE of the men concerned, six years ago, in the assassination of His Excellency Okubo, escaped from the Ishikawajima jail on the night of the 27th instant. He was arrested a few days afterwards by a detective disguised as a jinriki-sha coolie.

THE Accounts of the Charity performances by the French Amateurs have been published, showing a credit balance of \$364.31, which was divided between the Yokohama General Hospital, the Société Française de Secours, and the Amateur Orchestra (for charitable purposes).

AN action for libel brought by the United States Consul-General Van Buren against Dr. T. H. Tripler of Yokohama, was concluded on the 3rd instant. The Honorable J. A. Bingham, U.S. Minister, before whom the case was tried, reserved judgment.

THE Yokohama rowing season was formally opened on the afternoon of the 29th ultimo, by a procession of six boats, one six-oar and five four-oars, which pulled round the shipping. The water was too rough to permit the pair-oars and single sculls to join in the procession.

THE prefecture of Akita is suffering from an epidemic of *kakke*. Up to the middle of Fe-

bruary, 40 adults are said to have succumbed to the disease, and 300 others are suffering from it. A special office has been established in the Imperial Naval Department to carry on investigations in connection with the malady.

THE vernacular press still continues to discuss the question of treaty revision with unabated energy, the opposition journals condemning any measure which stops short of completely recovering for Japan those two powers—*hōken* and *zeiken*—judicial and fiscal, which are gradually passing into a species of national watchword.

STATISTICS have been published, showing that the average annual loss by fires in Tokiyo during the decade 1874-83 was 1,957,150 yen. The Government has submitted to the Tokiyo Local Assembly a project for increasing the numbers of the fire-brigades, and generally re-organizing them, as well as making provision for a larger supply of water.

A MERCANTILE Shipping Company (*Shosen Kwaisha*) has been started at Osaka with a capital of 1,500,000 yen. Fourth-fifths of this sum is represented by the vessels handed over to the new corporation by the former Cōoperative Steamship Co. (*Domei Kisen Kwaisha*), and the remaining fifth is to be raised by 6,000 shares at fifty yen each. Fifty vessels have been chartered by the officers of the Shipping Bureau (*Kwansan Kioku*).

THE Omi tea producers and manufactures have been the first to carry out the provisions of the Notification recently issued by the First Minister of State and the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce. Forty-seven of them assembled at the end of last month, and drew up a number of bye-laws which have been submitted for the approval of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce.

NOTES.

It is interesting to observe that Italy, after setting the world an example in the matter of colossal ships of war, is beginning to wonder whether her huge playthings will really strike, in the day of battle, such effective blows as their projectors anticipated. A distinguished naval officer, Commandant Cottrau, has presented to the Minister of Marine, at Rome, a valuable memoir on the subject of coast-defence. He does not venture to shock public opinion by decrying the big ships openly. On the contrary, he pays them the pretty compliment of saying that Italy has reason to be proud of such magnificent monsters. But—and here comes the fine sarcasm of the thing—he doubts whether the possession of these remarkable *chefs d'œuvres* of naval construction may not lull the nation into a false security. Two years ago Sir William Armstrong said that the invulnerability of ships of war was no longer anything but a dream. He did not specially allude to the "splendid and terrible colossi" of Italy, but simply to the fact that guns had won the day against armour. No coat of mail a ship is

capable of carrying can withstand the blows she must expect to receive. Better, then, avoid the blows than invite them. Monsters like the *Inflexible* and the *Baudin* would be hard to miss in action. To hit the target they offer of 400 square *mètres*, one need only train a gun to the proper quarter of the heavens. True, they have water-tight compartments, so that several windows might be made in their sides before the danger of sinking became imminent. But who supposes that a ship could remain at sea, manoeuvre, and fight her guns, with holes in her ribs through which, to use a gallant officer's description, "an omnibus might drive?" So Commandant Cottrau thinks that these colossi ought not to be too much exposed. He would keep them for the decisive blow—as a sort of reserve, in short—and use smaller, swifter ships in the early stages of the war. This, we suspect, is the first note of the big ships' death-knell, so far as Italy is concerned. If they are too vulnerable to be trusted into the battle, they had better be laid up at once in glass museums. England will inevitably come to the same conclusion ere long. As military tactics have ceased to include the phalanx and the battalion of quarter distance columns among fighting formations, so naval tactics will discard these unweildy monsters, which only embody the principle of force against intelligence. The swift steel double-ender, handy, comparatively inexpensive, and capable of striking as heavy a blow as any colossus, is undoubtedly the battle ship of the future. Sir William Armstrong, the designer of this class of vessel, will hereafter be counted the chief of naval architects, as he is already reckoned the father of breech-loading ordnance in Europe.

A SUBJECT so important as currency redemption naturally provokes discussion. Were all the articles and letters it has inspired during the past five years in Yokohama collected, they would form a ponderous volume. How much of the volume would remain if everything contradictory and illogical were expunged from its contents, we cannot venture to assert. But certainly the process of excision would bring to light many illustrations of the happy irresponsibilities of ephemeral journalism. A recent instance is too remarkable to pass without comment. The Memorial presented to the Foreign Representatives by the merchants of Yokohama in March, 1882, recommended two distinct processes with regard to the currency: the one, a stimulation of the demand for *Kinsatsu*, and and therefore an improvement in their value, the other, an accumulation of specie to redeem them. A local journal, commenting on the Memorial, called this "a sound financial policy." Now it happens that since the Memorial was written, the measures taken by the Government have affected an appreciation of about 30 per cent. in the value of *Kinsatsu*. Those measures are, however, denounced by the same journal as "an unsound policy," and are said to have been "based upon principles diametrically opposite" to the recommendations of the Memorialists. In reality, the only difference is, that the Government, instead of seeking to increase the demand has diminished the supply. The Memorialists would have essayed to produce equilibrium between the volume of the currency and its functions by stimulating trade and increasing exports. The Government has nearly produced equilibrium by reducing the volume of the currency and directly encouraging exports. Both

plans are founded on the same economical principle, that fiat notes will circulate at par with specie so long as they are not issued in excess of national requirements. It would, no doubt, have been very convenient and pleasant to follow the Memorialists' plan, but unfortunately the signatories themselves were unwilling to submit to the only condition which could have rendered their programme practicable. Pursuing the comparison of the two methods, we find, that while the Memorialists "proposed, by fostering trade, to ensure a natural reaction in the currency," the newspaper which calls this "a sound financial policy," asserts, in the same breath, that "the Government's efforts have resulted in checking trade, whereby currency has acquired an artificial and untrustworthy nominal value." It appears, then, that in this wonderful country of Japan, fiat paper may be made to appreciate both by checking trade and by fostering trade. Nor is this all. Another objectionable feature of the Government's scheme, we learn, is that it "absorbs and exports the available produce of the people to cover the heavy foreign expenditure for which no return beneficial to the nation is received." Unless the plan set forth in the Memorial contemplated repudiation of Japan's paltry foreign debts, it is hard to see how their discharge could have been less necessary even though the measures recommended to stimulate trade were actually carried out. Perhaps there is something here not discernible by ordinary eyes. Perhaps if foreign-owned ships were permitted to enter unopened ports, the foreign expenditure of the Government might become beneficial to the nation. But the sequence of ideas is too subtle for our perception. So, too, is the assertion that "the redemption of currency with money is as far off now as it was in 1882." Seeing that the volume of the currency has been reduced from 160 to 125 millions; that its value has appreciated from a discount of 40, to a discount of 9 per cent., and that the specie reserve in the Treasury has been increased from four to twenty-two millions, it seems a little extravagant to say that resumption is as far off now as it was in 1882. The appreciation that has been produced by diminishing the number of *Kinsatsu* in circulation is just as real as the appreciation that might have been produced by increasing the demand for them. The latter plan would doubtless have been wholesomer and less disagreeable, but the Government, having to choose between the two, naturally, as it seems to us, choose the more feasible, and carried it out. If they did not clearly see their way to expand trade up to the volume of the currency, there was nothing for it but to contract the latter to the dimensions of the former.

THE Naval Regatta on the Sumidagawa, which took place on Wednesday, was very largely attended, many thousands of spectators being present. The day was fine, a bright sun in a cloudless sky, but a bleak north wind made it rather cold and raised clouds of dust. H.I.M. the Mikado, Ministers of State, and a large number of naval and military officers of all branches of the service were present, and the Empress and Empress Dowager, attended by fifteen ladies-in-waiting, were in the pavilion in Court costume, and presented a brilliant appearance. The programme consisted of fourteen races, between crews from the various men-of-war and the naval barracks and schools, and these were well contested, an extra race for cadets winding up

the afternoon's sport. After the races some torpedo experiments were exhibited to illustrate the method of counter-mining in an enemy's water where torpedoes are known to be laid down. The experiments were eminently successful, but were on a small scale on account of the narrowness of the river. Six torpedoes were exploded singly, each containing 180 lbs. of powder, and this was sufficient to raise an enormous column of water. The counter mine, consisting of six, of 50 lbs. each, was exploded in line, showing how a passage for vessels could be cleared of obstructions.

STEAMERS from Europe arriving at Boston, says an American paper, report that they encountered immense fields of ice. The *Virginian*, from Liverpool, when near the Grand Banks, skirted an immense field of ice for some hours, and was obliged to change her course to get out of the way of it. The *Virginian* met the steamship *Sidonian*, from Boston for Glasgow. The latter vessel had encountered an ice field on the 3rd Feb, and was many hours forcing her way through. A hole had been stove in her port bow, and her steering-gear was damaged. She is an iron boat, with five bulkheads, and did not require assistance. The *Kansas*, from Liverpool, passed four large icebergs in mid-ocean. Icebergs thus early in the season are regarded as indicating an open winter in Arctic waters.

ONE cannot but sympathise heartily with the project now on foot in this Settlement to combine several of the sporting associations into one strong club, really representative of Yokohama. The place is too small for such a division of strength as exists at present. In the discussion which the project has evoked, stress is laid on the possible injustice that may be done to members of the less important associations by requiring them either to sacrifice the peculiar game of their predilection, or to carry it on under the condition of supporting other games which, perhaps, they do not affect. It seems to us that this is entirely a question for the majority to decide. It is impossible to please everybody. There must be some sacrifices. If it can be shown that the balance of advantage is on the side of amalgamation, the few interests that will suffer must be content to suffer. Certainly the men who subscribe to all the associations and play all the games in question, have a right to more consideration, than those whose sporting capabilities are less fully developed. We confess that some of the objections urged against amalgamation do not commend themselves for profundity. We are told, for example, that the proposal "threatens the *raison d'être* of the Cricket Club and seems to turn it into an *olla podrida* of games, in which cricket—pure and simple—would be a thing of the past." Apparently the critic who wrote this is haunted by a phantasy that the results of amalgamation are to extend to the games themselves, and that in future the cricket-ground will be the scene of hybrid performances, partaking in part of base-ball, foot-ball, lawn-tennis, athletics, and cricket. To be sure, if cricket is so haughtily conservative that to share its account-books with other sports would contaminate it, the scheme must be condemned as sacrilegious. This novel view of the game appears, also, to be responsible for the notion advanced by the same writer, that because the Club in its present unadulterated form "produces" a good eleven, "any proposal

tending to radically alter its constitution, or to relegate cricket to the background" is to be looked on with suspicion. One would imagine that the strength of a team depended on the constitution of the club, and that the productive powers of the latter varied with its exclusiveness. Then, again, we are told that a Committee comprising members "elected on behalf of each separate game is, at once, enough to condemn" the scheme, "for the fact that different members are to be elected for the sake of advocating the rights of each particular branch of the sports, pre-supposes an antagonism between each—each member contending for his own particular hobby, as opposed to those of others—which would be destructive of any harmonious working of the Club as a whole." This chimera is about as comic as the apprehended disappearance of pure, unadulterated cricket. Why a foot-ball player should fight with a cricketer because both serve on the same Committee, or what idea of mutual antagonism is involved in the principle of each interest being fairly represented, we cannot pretend to understand. Neither, indeed, does the writer himself, so far as we can judge, for while foreseeing that everybody will fight if brought together, he admits that he could find a reason for bringing them together "had the Committee of the Cricket Club shown any particular objection to other games." That is to say, if cricketers were animated by a hostile spirit against base-ballers, they would be likely to work well together, but being friendly, their combination will involve disputes. Were cricket in any real danger, it would find, we trust, sounder support than this. But in fact, cricket, so far from suffering by the scheme, will be largely benefited. Mr. Abbott's letter to our contemporary, the *Gazette*, shows that the immediate effect of his plan will be to add 25 new members to the Cricket Club. Twenty-five new members means an increase of \$250 in annual income, or of \$200 net—deducting the Foot-ball Association's rent. This would enable the ground to be put in thoroughly good order, and other desirable improvements to be effected. Everybody concerned would gain, and we wish the proposal success if only for the sake of seeing Yokohama united in its sports, at all events.

It is not pleasant to live in company with the possibility of finding one's house tottering and crumbling at any moment about one's ears. Yet, on the whole, Japan's liability to earthquakes is compensated by her immunity from floods, tornadoes, and other horrors which visit more Western lands. The story that comes from America of the Carolina Cyclone is full of terrible details. The storm seems to have been first felt in Johnston County on the night of February the 19th. It was moving southward in a track from a quarter to half a mile wide, and everything it touched went down before it. Houses were wrecked, and whole families crushed to death or dashed into the woods and swamps. Wagons are said to have been lodged in tree tops, and beams hurled along with such tremendous force that they cut off the heads, or broke the backs, of everyone they touched. After sweeping down a track ten miles long, the storm soared again into the air, to descend with renewed fury at a point forty miles distant. In its second onset it killed twenty-five people in one village and laid every house in ruins. Pitiable accounts are given of little children blown into swamps and killed by falling trees or

by exposure to the bitter cold. Altogether the losses of life in South Carolina are put at ninety, while the number of persons injured is a hundred. The wounds of the dead are described as most horrible; some having their heads crushed flat, others with immense splinters through their bodies, others impaled on broken trees, and others again "forced into piles of logs and having their intestines torn out."

It will be remembered that when General T'so T'sung-tang visited Shanghai last October, his escort showed themselves so truculent and disorderly that a complaint was addressed by the Municipal Council to the Board of Consuls. The Council's representations subsequently took the form of a request that limits should be set to the numbers of a Chinese high official's escort when passing through the foreign settlement, but as the Consuls declined to assume this position *vis-à-vis* the Chinese local authorities, the correspondence was ultimately forwarded to the Foreign Representatives in Peking. Since then, the new Chairman of the Municipal Council has again addressed the Senior Consul with regard to the outrages committed by T'so's soldiers on the occasion of that dignitary's second visit to the settlement in February. This last communication contains the following intimation:—

The Municipal Council, while according to a Chinese official the right to land in the Settlement with a well-behaved unarmed escort befitting his rank, take exception altogether to his landing with an armed force, and I have to request that you will communicate without delay the substance of this letter to the Diplomatic Representatives at Peking, urging that they should concert measures with the Chinese authorities to regulate official privileges in similar cases. Until the Foreign Ministers have had time and opportunity to arrive at an understanding upon the important subject which you are now requested to submit to them, it will be the duty of the Municipal Council to intimate to the Taotai through you, should the occasion arise, that in the interest of all nationalities only an unarmed escort should enter the Settlement, but that in all cases, Chinese officials of distinction, in Municipal limits will meet with the courtesies which usage and propriety entitle them to.

Undoubtedly this will hereafter be quoted as a very wonderful phase of foreign relations with the Middle Kingdom. The Municipal Council of Shanghai, primarily holding their authority from the Chinese Government, "accord to a Chinese official the right to land in the Settlement with a well behaved unarmed escort, but take exception altogether to his landing with an armed force." As a novelty, an unarmed escort is curious enough, but the notion of a municipal council interfering at all in such matters is still more curious. Conceive the municipality of Dover forbidding a guard of honor to carry arms when receiving General Roberts on his return from India! Chinese soldiers, it is true, seem resolved to misbehave themselves in foreign settlements, and the people of Shanghai have a right to claim immunity from outrages such as those they suffered at the hands of T'so's braves. But the position they have now taken seems quite untenable. The numbers and equipment of an Imperial Officer's escort are matters that come entirely within the province of the Imperial Government, and cannot, under any conceivable circumstances, be regulated by municipal authority. The Municipality of Shanghai, however, does not mean to wait for instructions from Peking. In the interim it takes the law into its own hands, and intends to intimate to the Taotai, if the occasion arises, that only an unarmed escort should enter the Settlement. But suppose the Taotai disregards this intimation, as he certainly will, not having any power to act upon it. Will the Municipal Police be then directed

to disarm the high official's escort? That would probably be a noisy business. We trust that dignitaries with armed followings will keep away from Shanghai for the present.

NEW YORK has done its best to honour the remains of the men who perished in the pursuit of that mischievous will-o-the-wisp, the North Pole. Perhaps in no part of the world and at no period in the world's history, were funeral rites invested with so much pomp and parade as they are in the United States at present. There is much that is shocking, if not revolting, in the morbid propensity that generally dictates these displays, but in the tribute paid to the memory of the *Jeanette's* dead one recognizes a feeling with which all can sympathise. After performing a species of triumphant procession half round the globe, the ten corpses, or what remained of them, reached the Hoboken Dock on the 20th of February. There, for the first time in their long progress, they seem to have been treated with some little neglect, for they remained, throughout the night, without a guard of honour or other mark of respect, and watched over by only two men, brothers of the meteorologist, Mr J. J. Collins, whose coffin was among the number. The following morning, however, this oversight was remedied, and a volunteer guard stood sentry over the dead, while hour by hour a crowd of respectful sight-seers surged beyond a barrier which the troops had erected. At noon Mrs. De Long arrived, and throwing herself upon her husband's coffin, "sobbed convulsively for many minutes." A curious, and, one cannot help thinking, fortunate, mistake seems to have been made by those who forwarded the caskets. When the latter were shipped at Orenburg, a quantity of cork chips were sent with them to serve as packing. The chips were, however, placed about the bodies inside the caskets as well as about the latter, so that the faces of the corpses were not visible when the shield plates were removed. On the 22nd the bodies were carried by water to the New York side, where, from the Battery to the City Hall Park, every building was either draped in mourning or otherwise prepared for the occasion. The crowds are described as immense. In fact the whole city seems to have turned out, and the colossal dimensions of the gathering were not more remarkable than the perfect decorum observed throughout. Arrived at the Navy Yard, the bodies were laid in state until the evening, there receiving visits from thousands on thousands of mourners. Ultimately they were carried off to be buried, each in the place chosen by its friends.

THE sudden death of the Duke of Albany was doubtless caused by a more severe attack than usual of the malady from which he has long suffered. That he was in no condition to excite alarm, up to the middle of February, is attested by the fact that, on the 15th of the month he took part in an amateur concert at Esher, in aid of a local charity, singing the ballad composed by Frederick Clay, to Kingsley's verses, "The Sands of Dee." A few evenings before, at Dorking, he was the victim of a most unpleasant contretemps. He attended a county ball, and at the moment of leaving, while lifting his hat in return to the farewell salute of the company, received in his face the greater part of the contents of a pot of beer, flung by one of the subscribers to the entertainment, whose name has not been published, although it is stated that he holds a good position in society, and belonged

to several clubs, from which he has since been expelled. The assailant immediately offered profuse apologies, declaring that he had intended the insult for another person; and with this lame excuse the Duke was inclined let the matter pass by. It had, however, been generally observed that His Royal Highness was at the moment surrounded by ladies only, one of whom was likewise drenched by the operation, so that the wretched attempt at explanation was held insufficient, and the culprit would probably have been subjected to severer penalties, but for the Duke's unexpected death.

MR. WALTER has offered the position of Editor of *The Times* to Mr. Leonard H. Courtenay, a gentleman well known in political circles, both as financial Secretary to the Treasury, and as member of parliament from Liskeard. He has long been a writer for *The Times*, holding about the same connection with the great journal as that of Mr. Lowe, in former years. It can hardly be doubted that he will accept, knowing, as he must from his associations with journalism, that the power and distinction attached to the editorial management of *The Times* are far in advance of anything that a secretaryship in a Government office can confer. The pecuniary advantage is also considerable, his official salary being only £2,000. His labors in the new sphere will be excessive, especially if he aims at restoring the paper to the condition of supremacy in which it was left by Mr. Delane. It may be questioned, indeed, if that feat is not beyond human accomplishment. To make *The Times* what it was ten years ago, two vigorous bodies and two powerful minds were sacrificed; the manager, so called, succumbing several years before the editor. The choice of Mr. Chenery as Mr. Delane's successor was not fortunate, and no newspaper reader needs to be told that the reputation of the leading journal began to decline from the time that it was controlled by an Oxford savant, instead of an active man of the busy world. A great daily cannot rest upon its past glories, and nothing but a constant renewal of intellectual energy can sustain its force. Mr. Delane contrived to supply this, while he remained in charge, not by his own personal effort altogether, but by the employment of the best available material. He seldom wrote, himself;—partly, perhaps, for the reason that while gifted with an admirable faculty of moulding the work of others, his own productions were anything but first class, but more particularly because a metropolitan editor cannot indulge in original composition without neglecting his proper duties;—and he devoted himself to the task of fusing all the elements under his sway,—often very discordant in their primitive shape,—blending them harmoniously, and stamping them with the unmistakable "hall-mark" of Printing House Square, before giving them publicity. How he toiled, year after year, few except those in his immediate confidence were aware. His heart was in his vocation, but his mind toward the end, could not stand the strain. Mr. Chenery's sympathies were with other walks of literature,—if, indeed, a daily newspaper comes fairly within the compass of literature. To the supreme requirement of enterprising journalism, the collection and distribution of news, he seemed indifferent; and of the vital necessity for disciplined organization he was apparently unconscious. His rôle was so lax that he permitted the

principal proprietor to take the reins out of his hands on more than one occasion; and this for purposes which were so palpably unworthy of an organ of English opinion as to call forth the severest public criticism. No one who followed the course of *The Times* during the last months of Lord Beaconsfield's administration can have forgotten the extraordinary surrender of independent spirit which then enfeebled its columns. Persons who pretend to speak with authority have stated that the losses of that period, in circulation and in advertising patronage, have never been recovered. But in spite of all this, there is only one *Times*, with its imposing dimensions, its mechanical perfection, its plenitude of omniscience, and its still haughty and autocratic bearing, which can never be found fault with, so long as it is sanctioned by popular submission. The mighty machine stands in its familiar place, a little rusty and out of gear, it may be, but capable of mighty deeds, if only the right hand to direct it be forthcoming.

The North China Herald recently gave us a new and interesting version of the quarrel between Li Hung-chang and General Gordon about the slaughter of the Wangs at Soochow. According to the story told by our Shanghai contemporary, the massacre was ordered by Li's colleague, and the Viceroy's fault was limited to a want of becoming firmness. This information was furnished to the *North China Herald* by "an official who was attached to Li's person at the time of the occurrence and who spoke from personal knowledge." Another gentleman has now come forward with a different story which he publishes, in the form of a letter, in the same journal:—

When Soochow was taken, Li had been Fatai of Kiangsu for about two years, and was not only in nominal but in very real command of the Forces by which it was recovered. He had made his mark under Tseng Kuo-fan, and, at the time you speak of, so far from being a struggling adventurer, was an object of considerable jealousy to the latter, and held the highest rank. As for his infirmity of purpose, he had shown on many occasions that he meant to have his way and would not bow to anyone, however great the odds against him, and I should have liked to see some of his Generals try to interfere with him. As for taking a man of six feet high, strong and vigorous as he was, by the waist, and pushing him into an inner tent, the thing is absurd. The Wangs were killed in his presence, and not in a tent at all, but in one of the Yaméns in the city.

Gordon did not become Li's adviser till he was well up. He certainly had a great liking for a man who served him well, but he used him as he used others, and never was indebted to him for more than loyal service. Li's was throughout the ruling spirit. Sir James Hope had some influence over him, but even him he met and dealt with as an equal, not as a dependent, and could and would say so very decidedly when pressed to any course he was not disposed to take, long before he was in the strong position he occupied when Soochow was taken.

Now, as for the supposed treachery. Thinking they had surrendered at discretion, Gordon had given his word that the lives of the Wangs should be spared; but he had done so without authority. The Wangs thought he had done more,—that he had guaranteed them continuance of power; and when they swaggered into Li's presence bearing themselves as if they were still the lords of the city, Li saw that the place was not taken though he was inside the walls, that in another minute the fighting would commence again, and the chances were he and his would be kicked out, possibly come to utter grief. It was no moment for hesitation; weakness would have been ruin, and the choice was given of instant submission or instant death. They would not submit, and off went their heads, and their followers were cowed. I never sympathized with Gordon's mad rage on the occasion, for it was always my opinion that he had not grasped the position, and that Li could not act otherwise. One can understand Gordon's rage, but it arose from a mistake as to what was the real state of affairs. We looked on him as the General in Command, and he did the same, but Li only looked on him as one of his lieutenants.

It is easy to see that here, too, we are listening to one who actually took part in the events he relates. But it is inconceivable that if Gordon

had acted without Li's authority in promising the Wangs their lives, he would have subsequently treated the Viceroy as a forewarned traitor. The English soldier was a just man before everything. He might have been incensed to the extent of immediately resigning his command when he found that his solemn engagement to the Wangs was not respected by the Chinese General. But would this have induced him to attempt the latter's destruction? Would he have tried to shoot his colleague and nominal superior merely because a slight had been put upon himself? We think not, and those that know Gordon will be of the same mind. We ourselves have heard it related by one who gave Gordon as his authority, that not only did Li promise to spare the lives of the Wangs, but that he also undertook to provide a banquet for them, and that Gordon's characteristic reply was, "I don't care about the banquet, but I want your word." On the whole, if Li is to be exonerated, it must be on the evidence of the *North China Herald's* first informant. The objection made by the correspondent quoted above—that a man of Li's size, strength, and known resolution could not have been thrust aside—loses its force when we remember that the story of Li being pushed into a tent by his subordinate is qualified by an explanation that he did not at the time suspect the latter of any immediate design upon the Wangs' lives. He might very well have yielded for the moment, believing that he still retained the power to keep his promise to Gordon.

THE Yokohama Bible Class holds a meeting every Sunday afternoon, at 3.30 p.m., in the rooms above the Bible Society, at No. 42. The class is open to all over sixteen years of age, and is presided over by the Rev. G. J. Smith.

MR. HENRY WATTERSON, who is about to introduce into Congress, in the interest of the press, a measure which he calls a newspaper "copyright" law, thus explains its object in the *New York Tribune*:—"It simply operates to protect property in news from piratical concurrent publication. This can be done by a clause in the copyright laws making collected news, the product of skilled labor and outlay, exclusive to those who pay for it, for twenty-four hours. I mean all news and news of every description and every association. As matters are, news is not recognized as property at all. Everything about a newspaper office, from the perfecting press to the newsman's pot of paste, is property, and he who steals it falls within the reach and compass of the law. But that which constitutes the real value of the newspaper property—its news franchises—costing vast sums of money and years of special enterprise, training, and labor—has no legal status whatever. It is practically outlawed; anybody can steal it with impunity. The proposed measure protects it from pirated use and concurrent publication for twenty-four hours. It creates, indeed, a new property; that is, property in news. No one can oppose it except those who want to rob others of their labor and money."

A LETTER from Constantinople, published in a Vienna paper, says that Secret Committees at Cairo, Beyrout, and the Turkish capital, are in active correspondence with Arabi, with a view to starting a general Pan-Islam movement in Western Asia and Northern Africa. The Sultan does not like the notion, it is said.

If we may judge by the rumours circulated in the columns of our Shanghai contemporaries, China is divided between two sentiments,—anger, bitter and deep, against France, and an eager anxiety to hide her own complicity in the resistance which the Black Flags have offered in Tonquin. It is stated that the recent publication by the *North China Herald* of the Imperial Edict appointing the chief of the Black Flags, Liu Jung-fu, to be Commander-in-Chief of the forces in Tonquin, has greatly incensed the Empress, and that a Secret Decree has now been issued to Admiral P'êng, ordering that official to inform all the Viceroys and Governors in the Eighteen Provinces that should such an indiscretion be repeated, immediate steps are to be taken for the arrest and decapitation, without further authority, of the guilty person; while the official from whose Yamên the document may have been stolen, is to be liable to the severest punishment and degradation. It is certainly highly inconvenient to a Government to know that its secret proceedings are likely to be blazoned abroad at any moment in the columns of a newspaper perused by its enemies, and we can sympathise with the Empress' indignation against the treachery of her subjects. "It would be difficult to exaggerate," says the *North China Herald*, "the consternation caused in official circles by the receipt of this Decree," and then naively adds, "we have hitherto been unable to obtain a copy of the document." Are we to presume from this that if our contemporary does obtain a copy he means to publish it? Liberty of the press is a fine thing in its way, and a newspaper's chief function is to procure news, but when the price paid for an item is the possible decapitation of one individual and the severe punishment and degradation of another, the claims of an inquisitive public begin to look insignificant. Regarding this matter from a Chinese standpoint, we should be disposed to doubt whether the privileges conferred by a treaty of commerce and amity extend to the publication, within Chinese territories, of a foreign journal in whose columns matter highly detrimental to China's national interests finds indiscriminate insertion. It ought not to be an extravagant claim that an English newspaper, printed and circulated on Chinese soil, should be as careful to avoid causing embarrassment to the Chinese, as to the British, Government. Certainly this would not be counted too high a code of ethics were the positions reversed.

A MOVEMENT is on foot in the United States to protect telegraphic and other original matter in newspapers for the period of twenty-four hours, by the introduction of a bill for that purpose which has been drawn up by Mr. Henry Waterson. This has become a necessity, according to many newspapers in the States, on account of the loose ideas upon the subject of *meum* and *tuum* entertained by some of their contemporaries. A recent *Alta*, says editorially:—"That news may become property is a fact too clear for dispute. To collect and transmit it requires skilled labor and a command of those modern agencies of commerce, the telegraph and post-office. The labor employed in collecting and transmitting the news costs money, and when it is purchased in this way, why should not news be subject to ownership, like other products of labor? If subject to ownership it is property, and if it is property, news ought to

enjoy protection as much as other descriptions of property. Property is a right, and the very essence of right, say the legal writers, is in the duty laid on others respecting the possessor of that right. Thus, liberty is a personal right, and liberty means nothing but the obligation imposed on others to respect the possessor of the right of liberty in the exercise of his personal faculties and the disposal of his property according to his own pleasure, subject to certain restrictions made necessary for the good of society. Property without protection is an anomaly, but that is the status of news at the present time. A great newspaper pays many thousand dollars every month for telegraphic news, and yet it cannot protect itself against the piracy of that news by dishonest competitors. It usually happens that a paper which pays a great deal for news has a large circulation, and it requires hours to print enough copies to meet the daily demand. The dishonest competing newspaper, which has but a small circulation, holds back its issue until it can obtain an early copy of its rival, when the telegraphic news is cut out, put in type, and the paper printed and sold on the street in competition with that which is the real owner of the news. One pays \$1,000 for the news and the other not a penny. Is it common justice or common sense that the law should give the latter the same enjoyment of this property as that possessed by the newspaper whose money has bought it! Or take the case of the afternoon paper which scissors all its telegraphic news out of the columns of its morning contemporaries. The latter are the sufferers by this practice, for the evening newspapers necessarily compete more or less with the sale of the morning papers. Many subscribers are lost to morning newspapers because they find a full summary of the morning news in evening papers which obtain it, not by purchase, but by a simple act of appropriation. The Waterson bill protects property in news only for the term of twenty-four hours, which is surely a very modest demand. If the public would be in any way the loser by the adoption of this bill—if it would tend to reduce the quantity of news collected and transmitted by telegraph—there would not be so good an argument for its passage. But instead of an injury to the news-reading public, it would be a benefit, for if protected in their rights, the papers which pay for telegraphic news would be able to buy more news and better. Now they are in the position of a merchant who not only has to pay for the goods he himself sells, but for those stolen from him by a dishonest neighbour, who daily replenishes his stock in this way. It is unnecessary to say the legitimate trader must charge a higher price, to keep even, than if a part of his stock was not regularly stolen."

At 11.30 p.m. on Sunday (30th) a fire broke out at No. 17, in the first ward of Honshirokanecho, in the Nihon-bashi district, Tokiyo. A strong wind, blowing from the north-west, fanned the fire into such vigour that about 50 houses were destroyed before the flames subsided at 12.40 p.m. It does not appear to be clearly established whether this fire was accidental or the work of an incendiary. The former, however, seems more probable. Tokiyo has been comparatively fortunate this season in the matter of fires, but, on the other hand, an improved system of statistics and detectives has removed all doubt as to the prevalence of incendiarism on a large

scale. In view of the facts which have come to light the efficiency of the present penal code to restrain this particular species of evil-doing is called in question. Incendiaries, it will be remembered, used to suffer death under the old codes, and of course the effects of such a law were more deterrent. But it seems to us that a change of social conditions has more to do with the apparently increased license of these times than a change of penalties. Fifteen years ago almost every man in Tokiyo was virtually a policeman in the pay of some *Yashiki*, with the safety of which his fortune was more or less bound up. Obligated, in case of fire, to repair at once to the *Yashiki*, whatever might be the danger to his own premises, he naturally spared no pains to avert such a contingency. Each householder was, in short, a spy on his neighbour, so far as the prevention of this variety of crime was concerned; while, at the same time, the very malefactors of the city were themselves enlisted in the cause of public security by a system which condoned their petty crimes for the sake of their services in more serious crises. These conditions, disappearing, gave place to a police service, which, until very lately, could not pretend efficiently to take the place of so thorough, though so peculiar, an organization. The two seasons, 1882-83 and 1883-84, have been, as we have said, comparatively free from fires, and to this freedom has now to be added the recent discoveries and arrests of incendiaries. Doubtless degrees of punishment produce varying effects, but it seems to us that with an efficient detective service, penalties ranging from five to twenty years ought to meet all the requirements of the case.

SAYS a writer in a London paper:—Trial by jury has been suspended in the districts of Vienna and Koenenbourg. Naturally there is much excitement over the business on the Continent. We fail to see the necessity for disquietude in the matter. Trial by jury has of late years become such a solemn farce that it would be of very little moment if it were abolished altogether. Were we called upon to stand in that prominent but uncomfortable position in a court of justice called "the prisoner's dock," and had we the choice of election, we should choose, if innocent, to be tried by one of her Majesty's judges; but, if guilty, we should much prefer a jury—there would be at least a 6 to 4 chance for us then.

JAPANESE artillerymen, as well as the gentlemen who through the medium of these columns have instituted comparisons unfavorable to England's reputation as a scientific manufacturer of artillery, may be interested by the following passage from a letter addressed to *The Times* by General Sir J. Lintorn Simmons:—"The weight of guns is not the only direction in which artillery has progressed. The velocity of projectiles has been increased by means which were not even dreamt of formerly, and it is from the vastly increased penetration due to this cause (in great measure the result of the energy and scientific skill of Sir W. Armstrong) that the sea-forts run their greatest risk." It will be argued, no doubt, that this tribute to the genius of Sir W. Armstrong is an English opinion, and therefore not to be accepted without reserve as applying to English weapons. We readily admit the objection. But the verdict of General Simmons with regard to Armstrong's achievements seems at least as worthy of credit as the verdict of Mr.

Krupp with regard to those of Mr. Krupp. It is not to be expected that either manufacturer will readily admit the other's superiority, but so far as Japan is concerned, the comparison has hitherto been subject to very unequal influences. We doubt whether an English artilleryman has ever been present at, or ever taken part, directly or indirectly, in a trial that might have furnished trustworthy data; whereas, on the contrary, German experts, German agents, or persons more or less pledged to Krupp's interests, have, in the great majority of cases, assisted to ensure the results obtained with the Essen ordnance in this country. It is not by this meant to imply that any desire to be partial has been allowed to prevail. Japanese artillerymen presumably want to judge the various weapons on their merits. Nevertheless, the conditions have not been equal, and we should be sorry to see this country finally pledge itself to either system on the evidence of its experiments up to the present.

THE 5,000 lawyers of New York city embrace many ranks, classes, and conditions. Less than one-half the number enjoy a competency, but there are many who make immense sums every year. Some of the "shyster" lawyers—men who know nothing of law and practice only in the Police Courts—realize as much as \$25,000 a year. Dickerson and Dickerson, patent lawyers, have made \$5,000,000. Their present income is \$40,000 a year. Frederick W. Betts, also a patent lawyer, has an annual income of \$25,000 a year. Roscoe Conkling probably makes \$100,000 a year. The firm of which William M. Evarts is a member—Evarts, Southmayd & Choate—do a business of about \$80,000 a year. Mr. Evarts is supposed to be worth about half a million. David Dudley Field has made \$11,000,000 out of his profession. In the Tweed suits he received a fee of \$100,000. Lord, Day & Lord received a fee of \$175,000 in the Hicks Lord suits. Their income is about \$65,000. General Roger A. Pryor started in New York after the war without a dollar, and now has an income of \$10,000. The Covbert brothers do a large practice for foreigners and make \$60,000 a year.—*San Francisco Post*.

THE *Voltaire* says that in a house at Hanoi there was found a general order addressed to the Black Flags. It was written on a sheet of yellow paper, framed in a deep blue border, round which were depicted all sorts of warlike animals, as lions, dragons and mythical monsters. Translated the order ran thus:—"General Order issued to the Braves, by me their Mandarin and Chief. Tremble and obey. Thirteen days before the battle, eat tiger jelly so as to possess the wrath and ferocity of that animal. On the twelfth day before the battle, eat lion's liver roast, so as to absorb the natural intrepidity of the lion. On the eleventh day before the battle, eat serpent soup so as to acquire finesse. On the tenth day before the battle, eat chameleon cream, so as to dazzle the enemy by constantly changing colour and appearance. On the ninth day before the battle eat crocodile baillon, so as to be able to follow the enemy by water and by land. On the eighth day before the battle, eat jaguar's spleen steeped in wine, so as to fall on the foe with the rapidity and fury of the jaguar. On the seventh day before the battle, eat kites' heads, so as to discover the enemy with the incomparable vision of that bird of prey. On the

sixth day before the battle, eat the intestines of the zebra, to have the terrible voice of that animal. On the fifth day before the battle, eat hippopotamus brains, so as to have the impenetrable skin of that amphibian. On the fourth day before the battle, eat monkeys' backs, so as to climb to the assault with the agility of that quadruped. On the third day before the battle, eat a plate of scorpions, so that the wounds you inflict may be venomous and mortal as scorpions' stings. On the day before the battle, eat the breast of a panther, half raw, so as to be pitiless as the panther. On the morning of the battle, swallow twelve pinches of powder steeped in leopard's blood, so as to tear your foes like the leopard. And on the evening after the battle.—this is the *Voltaire's* addition.—*Mangez de la poudre . . . d'escampette.*

THE wrestling matches at Kobikicho, Tokiyo, continue to attract immense crowds of spectators. On Sunday, shortly after one o'clock, the audience that had assembled, to the number of several thousands, occupied the whole of the sitting and standing room, and gate-money had to be refused. The sport was never allowed to flag, and some very exciting contests took place. In one bout, the antagonists, said to be two celebrities, had a "hitch" which lasted over four minutes, and after a terrific struggle, in which it was apparently anybody's "back," a splendid "fall" resulted, the winner giving his antagonist the "flying mare" in capital style. This raised a roar of applause from the assembled thousands that must have been heard a mile away.

THE electric light has been called into requisition, says a home paper, for the first time publicly, in aiding the microscope in the development of its marvellous powers. What has previously been done by the lime light and by battery current is now successfully effected at the Crystal Palace by the Gülcher electric light in combination with an exceedingly powerful microscope. The result is the entertainment entitled "Les Invisibles," which is given in the Entertainment Court of the Crystal Palace. The exhibition is not only interesting, but instructive, and at times even amusing, as when living animalculæ in stagnant water and the mites in cheese are projected on the screen. It is, in fact, a display of every variety of microscopical objects on a very large scale, so large that the eye of the smallest sewing needle made appears to be about six feet long by four feet wide, the needle itself appearing to be almost twenty feet thick. From this it will be judged how well the minutest details in the minutest specimens are brought out. One of the most beautiful objects shown was the process of the crystallisation of sugar and of salt, the forms of the crystals being in each case very elegant, but totally different in structure. The Gülcher dynamo machine which generates the current is placed outside the court, and is driven by a small Otto gas engine. The light produced is excellent, but slightly unsteady.

THE result of the prohibition of the United States Government against Chinese immigrating to that country and carrying on business there, is that the Chinese are moving in great numbers towards Hawaii. Lately the mail ships bound for San Francisco which have passed through Yokohama have always had about a thousand Chinese on board. In the *Arabic*, which arrived in Yokohama from Hongkong, on the 25th instant, there were 1,233 Chinese emigrants

bound for Hawaii, who in spite of their being packed below like so much cargo, seemed to be enjoying themselves as they were cheerfully playing their "gekkin" (guitars) and other instruments.

THE newly-announced determination of the Russian Government (says the *Pioneer*), with regard to the trans-Caspian Railway, namely, to hand over the working of the line to "a powerful Trading Company subsidised by the State," will not escape the notice of any one who cares to pay attention to the progress of the Russian advance. In the course of two years more, Russia will come very near India. The Railway will be pushed on to Askabad. That place is just half way between the Caspian and Merv; from Merv onward to the Oxus is figuratively but a step, and a railway line from Askabad that should reach the Oxus, would be just that link between the two great wings of the Russian Empire in Central Asia that her statesmen there have so constantly sought for.

THE Japanese have many curious ways of advertising their wares, but we think the latest novelty has been produced by a member of that enterprising guild, the patent medicine peddlers. The merchant carries his two cases of medicines at either end of a pole as usual, but fixed on the pole is a frame containing photographs of persons suffering from the ills which his nostrums are supposed to cure. One photograph is of a child being run over by a jinrikisha, another a lady with the tooth-ache. Several are depicted as suffering from rheumatism, and others with indigestion and stomach ache. We do not know whether the idea is taken from the fertile brains of American advertisers, if not, no doubt, it will soon be adopted by them.

THE Honganji Priests have recently effected great changes in the organisation of their sect, with a view towards starting wide-spread propagandism of their doctrines. Sermons are preached twice every month to the workmen employed in building the new temple in Kiyoto, and a great number of priests have been sent all over the country to "save the souls of the seven million believers" (*Jiyu Shimbu*). It is at all events certain that the Honganji Priests are making prodigious efforts to save their doctrines from falling into disrepute. Even the number of workmen employed upon the new temple has been greatly curtailed, in order to save money to defray the expenses of the itinerant propagandists. About one thousand workmen are still kept busy, and the building of the temple is progressing rapidly.

THE miserable poltroonery of the Egyptian troops is rendered plainer by each account that reaches us of the doings about Suakin. The very sound of musketry suffices to make them abandon an upright posture and fall on their hands and knees complaining of stomach-ache. The Arabs in revolt, on the other hand, appear to possess the courage of fanaticism. As an illustration of this an event that occurred at Suakin in the beginning of February is related. A spy was discovered lying outside the camp. He was a lad of fifteen, and a number of Egyptian soldiers, seeing a mere stripling armed with a spear only, surrounded him gallantly. The boy, however, fought desperately, and his opponents were obliged to bayonet him before they could overcome him. Lying afterwards in a moribund

condition, he was asked whether he wanted anything. His answer was:—"Let me spear one Egyptian before I die." Between men animated with this spirit and the wretched Egyptians, there cannot be much fighting. There can only be flying and pursuing. It is said that within eight minutes from the time when the Arabs commenced their rush upon Baker Pasha's forces, the latter were either in full flight or on their knees praying for mercy. Next to that piece of Puritanical persecution that drove one of England's finest cavalry officers "out into the wilderness," Valentine Baker's life probably includes no bitterer experience than to have been obliged to lead such cravens against a gallant foe. So far as his tactical dispositions are concerned, they appear to have been precisely the same as those adopted previously by General Hicks and subsequently by General Graham. But there is a difference between the fighting qualities of a square formed of Egyptian fellahs, and a square with Highlanders in its front face and English hussars as an advanced guard. From the detailed accounts of General Graham's first encounter with Osman Digna's force, it is plain that the latter fought fiercely, and that had the Arabs been properly equipped and fairly disciplined, it would have been no easy task to get the better of them. Their notion of the position in which they were placed could scarcely have been simpler. The true prophet, they said, had written to tell them of his successes over thousands of men led by English officers, and to bid them rise and join him. If they died, he promised them paradise; if they refused to join him, he promised to come and kill them all, sending their spirits straight to hell. Osman's army probably exists no longer. After its first defeat, it seems to have fallen back among the hills near Sinkat, and to have received there the second onset of Graham's little force, the result being the total rout of the Arabs with a loss of fifty per cent. of their number. The fight must have been sharp while it lasted, but the comparatively trifling casualties on the English side in the second, as well as the first, encounter show that the enemy's weapons were virtually harmless. Major General Graham, who commands the English force, is an officer of distinction. "He entered the Royal Engineers in 1850, and rose to his present rank in 1881. He served in the Crimea, and at the assault of the Redan gained the Victoria Cross for courage in leading a ladder party. He was twice wounded during the war. In 1860 he went to China and served in many engagements, being present at the assault of Tangku and the Taku forts; he was also present at the surrender of Peking. He was wounded in this war with a jingal ball. In the summer of 1882 he was appointed to the command of the Second Brigade in the English expedition to Egypt, the other brigade commanders being the Duke of Connaught, Sir Archibald Allison, and Sir Evelyn Wood. He was actively engaged in the preliminary movements of the campaign against Arabi Pasha and took a prominent part in the battle of Tel-el-Kebir. He is thus familiar with campaigning in Egypt." There has, of course, been talk in Parliament about the apparent anomaly of one English General negotiating with the Mahdi at Khartoum and another fighting with his Lieutenant, Osman, at Tokar and Sinkat. But the fact is that Osman was really fighting on his own account. He hoped to be ruler over all the north-eastern districts of the Soudan. His chief connection with

the false prophet appears to have been the use he made of the latter's prestige. He told his followers that the Mahdi would pass through Egypt from north to south; kill all the Egyptians, Turks, and Christians; overturn the world and then put it right; that other parts of his force would cross to the Hedjaz and Mecca, kill the Sultan of Turkey and take India. It is said, too, that Osman assembled his men daily, read them letters received from the Mahdi, and excited them to such fury that they danced, yelled, and clamoured to be led to the attack. Probably this mood underwent a slight modification when Graham's Highlanders appeared upon the scene. Whatever gentlemen in Parliament might think, however, and whatever negotiations General Gordon might carry on at Khartoum, it was obviously impossible to let Osman Digna get command of all the country between Suakin and Berber. That would have been to virtually cut off Gordon's retreat from Khartoum, and make the rebels complete masters of the situation.

THE *Figaro* of Paris is a mighty power on the continent of Europe. Its earlier years were years of struggle and poverty, but its profits last year were over \$500,000. No journal has a bolder, more talented editorial staff, and no paper is more widely quoted, praised and blamed. M. de Villemessant, a born journalist, was the founder of the *Figaro*. For a long time he was the editor-in-chief, head reporter, and business manager of his journal. When he died this work was parcelled out among three men, Magnard, Perivier, and Rodays. To these three men de Villemessant said on his dying bed: "Always make up the paper as though you knew I was going to read it the next morning." The placing of this triumvirate at the head of the *Figaro* was a wise selection. Magnard originated the piquant epitome headed "Paris from Day to Day," a column made up of many articles condensed from the newspapers of the preceding day. Each paragraph is short, terse, and to the point—the quintessence of common sense and condensation. Magnard's letters are signed "F. M.," and never exceed forty lines of long primer. This phenomenal journalist is a man of the size and build of General Grant, and is apparently about forty-four years of age. He is highly educated, a severe judge of "copy," and is withal a very pleasant gentleman. The staff of editorial writers is quite numerous. One of the writers, M. Wolff, earns as much as \$15,000 a year. He is the dramatic critic. On this journal reporters receive from six to twenty cents a line. The editorial rooms are fitted up with every luxury and convenience, embracing fencing rooms, card tables, etc. An American would not consider the *Figaro* a great newspaper, but it certainly displays more enterprise in the collection news than any other journal in Europe. It goes everywhere, and is read with as much pleasure on our Pacific coast, in South America, at the Cape of Good Hope, in short all over the civilized world, as it is in the Parisian cafés. It is without exception the most cosmopolitan journal in existence.

REFERRING to the entertainers about to visit Yokohama, the *Hongkong Daily Press* says:—"The Lynch Family of Bellringers gave their second performance at the Theatre Royal, City Hall, on Thursday (20th ult.) There was a good attendance, and amongst those present were His Excellency the Governor and the Misses Bowen,

Vice-Admiral Sir W. M. Dowell, Mrs. Marsh, the Hon. P. Ryrie, &c., &c. The programme was well carried through, and the bell-ringing was warmly applauded all through, "Come Home, Father," the "Blue Bells of Scotland," and "College Hornpipe" being especially well received. Mr. H. Lynch's performance on the musical glasses also met with applause. Mr. Farron's cosmic sketches caused much amusement, and his Irish impersonation "Biddy, the Pride of the Ballet" was loudly encored. To-night the Company will make their last appearance in Hongkong, for which occasion an entire change of programme is announced. We strongly recommend those who have not yet seen them to avail themselves of the opportunity, as the bell-ringing is a performance seldom to be met with, and is alone well worth going to hear.

A TELEGRAM in the *Alta*, dated Chicago, March 6th, says:—"News has just reached El Paso of a terrible accident yesterday at the Precetas mines, Sonora. Only the most meagre details are yet stated, but it is known that twenty men are buried in one shaft, which is said to have caved in without a moment's warning. None of the bodies have yet been recovered. There is no hope entertained that any of the unfortunate miners at work in the shaft at the time of the accident are alive, as the cave-in was so instantaneous and complete as to cut off every chance of escape, or to make any kind of preparation on the part of the miners to protect themselves, until they could be dug out. The greatest excitement prevails here, pending the receipt of the names of those known to have been at work in the shaft when the accident occurred.

A RATHER serious hoax has been discovered by the *Bukka Shimpō*. It has been rumoured for sometime past that the Government would shortly issue convertible paper currency, and this report was so widely credited that the price of silver fell with amazing rapidity. But it now appears that the rumour was entirely unfounded, having originated solely in the scheming brains of some far-sighted speculators. A Japanese banker, who was believed to be *au fait* with the financial policy of the Government, gave considerable impetus to the rumour by buying \$400,000 of silver when the quotations had reached the lowest figure. Now that the truth has been made public, a general outcry has been raised against him, as what he did is said to be contrary to the principles of honest transactions.

THE British coal export trade is growing rapidly. In 1874 the United Kingdom shipped 13,927,205 tons abroad; in 1878, 15,494,633 tons; in 1881, 19,587,063 tons, and in 1883 it exported 22,771,348 tons of coal. From 1878, inclusive, the aggregate exported was 75,685,881 tons, while from 1879 to 1883, inclusive, the total was 98,465,135 tons, a gain in the second half of the decade of 30 per cent. At this rate the export will double itself in thirty years more. There was a slight falling off in the Russian takings in 1883, but more was sent to Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Holland, Spain, Italy, Turkey, Egypt, Brazil, Malta, British India and other countries. Germany took 2,425,298 tons as compared with 2,320,121 tons in 1882, and France, 4,476,995 tons as compared with 4,096,953 tons. France is Britain's largest foreign customer for coal. Including coal used by British steamers running to foreign markets and coal supplied to foreign steam-

ship lines, it is noted that 29,171,942 tons of coal were sent out of the United Kingdom in 1883 as compared with 26,509,608 tons in 1882, and 22,814,651 tons in 1881. This increase in two years of 4,357,291 tons attracts attention. British coal-owners derived £10,642,013 from coal sold to foreign and colonial customers last year.

THE Bureau in the Home Department charged with the censorship of the press has hitherto been known as the *Annai-kwa*. Henceforth its name will be changed to that of *Shimbun-Kenyetsu-gakari*, which, though more cumbersome, is more descriptive, than the former title. Nothing would give the Japanese or their foreign friends greater pleasure than to hear that the Bureau was about to be abolished altogether, instead of having the number of its officials increased, as is now said to be the intention. It is true that countries which can afford the luxury of a free press are in an unhappy minority at present, but it is none the less true that public opinion must always be the enemy of those who seek to restrain its open expression.

THE annual report of the Canadian Department of Indian Affairs contains, says an American paper, some statistics which furnish a possible basis of comparison with those of our own Indian Bureau. There is a total Indian population in the Dominion of 131,137, of whom 34,520 are in Manitoba and the North-west, 36,483 in British Columbia, 18,181 in Ontario, and 11,930 in Quebec. The number of pupils attending the Indian schools is 4,394. The agricultural and industrial statistics show that the Indian population resident on the reserves is 86,270; the quantity of land cultivated, 64,051 acres; new land cultivated during the year, 3,986 acres; houses or huts, 11,584; barns and stables, 3,391. There were large quantities of wheat, oats, peas, barley, rye, potatoes, and hay raised by the Indians in addition to considerable sales of fish and furs. Canada's Indians are more industrious than ours, and their cost to the Government is a mere trifle compared with what the United States annually pays for the support of its wards.

A WELL-KNOWN resident of this Settlement, who returned from San Francisco in the *Oceanic*, was made the victim of a practical joke, some of his friends having inserted in the passenger list "and Mrs." before his surname, which made it appear that he had brought back a wife to Japan. As the *Japan Mail* published the passenger list containing this error, we now apologise for having been unwitting parties to the deception.

THE official title of His Excellency Tokudaiji, hitherto Minister of the Imperial Household Department, is *Fijiyu-cho*; a term which may be rendered with tolerable accuracy by "Lord High Chamberlain." His Excellency's new post carries with it the same emoluments as his previous office, though in point of official rank it is of slightly inferior grade. The duties connected with it have reference entirely to the details of the Imperial Household.

A CASE came before N. J. Hannen, Esq., Judge, at H.B.M. Court, on Tuesday, in which F. Bischoff sued A. Clark for the sum of \$400, alleged to be due for wages as master of the British schooner *Guam*, and for dismissal without proper notice. Mr. Kirkwood appeared for the plaintiff,

and defendant conducted his own case. The point at issue, as alleged by the defendant, was the position of the plaintiff, Mr. Clark attempting to prove that he engaged plaintiff as a rigger and to fit out the *Guam*, and not as master of the vessel. Evidence was given, however, which showed that third parties had considered Bischoff in the light of master of the *Guam*, and His Honour proposed a settlement on a basis of \$5 per diem in addition to the sum of \$73 paid into Court. To this the defendant consented, as well as to costs to the amount of \$50.

"CORRESPONDENCE respecting the Co-operation of Neutral Powers for the Protection of their Subjects in China in Case of Necessity" is the title of a Parliamentary Paper just issued. It opens with the following despatch addressed by Lord Granville to Her Majesty's representatives at Berlin and Washington:—

In view of the crisis which appears to be imminent in China, I have to request your Excellency to propose to the German Government that the British and German Admirals should be instructed to concert together in case of necessity for the protection of their respective nationals.

I have instructed Her Majesty's Minister at Washington in a similar sense.

Count Hatzfeldt, on behalf of the German Government, acceded to the suggestion. The reply of the American Government was as follows:—

American Admiral will be instructed to act in concert with the vessels of England and other neutral Powers for the protection of their respective subjects.

In consequence of the wording of this telegram Lord Granville again wrote to Lord Ampthill at Berlin, suggesting that the reference to "other neutral Powers" should be introduced in the instructions which it was proposed to send to the British and German Admirals in the China seas. To this Lord Ampthill agreed, and subsequently the adhesion of the Italian, Russian, Portuguese, Japanese, and Spanish Governments was obtained to the proposal. On December 11 Lord Granville sent a despatch to Lord Lyons, the British Ambassador in Paris, reporting a conversation with M. Waddington respecting certain remarks in Lord Hartington's speech to his constituents which had excited some attention in France. Lord Granville reports the substance of the explanation he gave to M. Waddington as follows:—

The proposal which had been made, and which had been received favourably by the Governments concerned, had simply been that those Powers who had vessels in Chinese waters should instruct their naval commanders to concert together with the view of affording protection to foreign subjects in the event of a rupture between France and China. It was unnecessary to say that any measures which might be adopted in such a case would be taken in a friendly spirit both to France and China.

M. Waddington thanked me, and gave me the assurances that the French Government have no intention of going beyond the programme they had announced, unless forced to it by some extraordinary act on the part of China, and that they would do their utmost to avoid any measures of a nature to interfere with legitimate foreign trade such as a blockade of the Treaty ports.

—Times.

It is a recognized fact, says the *Choya Shimbun*, that certain curious European customs are coming into vogue in this country. In Kiyoto, on the occasion of the opening of the Tenman Temple, a number of photographs of the gentle sex were exhibited; the idea being undoubtedly adopted from the similar exhibition of favourite beauties which was lately held in London.

It has hitherto been the practice in Tokiyo when a child was found abandoned, to hand it over to the Divisional Officers, who either put it

out to nurse at the expense of the people of the Division, or handed it over, with a gratuity, to any person desirous of adopting it. In future, however, all foundlings are to be placed in the Foundling Hospital (*Poiku-in*) in Idzumicho. In consequence of this change more than 110 foundlings, now supported here and there throughout Tokiyo at the public charge, are to be all sent to that institution.

WE learn by telegraph that His Royal Highness the Duke of Albany died at Cannes, on the 28th inst. H.R.H. Leopold George Duncan Albert was born on the 7th April, 1853, and was married on the 27th April, 1882, to the Princess Helen, daughter of the Prince of Waldeck. The late Royal Duke leaves a daughter—Alice Mary Victoria Augusta Pauline, born on the 25th February last year.

THE German brig *Minerva*, Captain P. Duhme, the British bark *Velocity*, Captain R. Martin, and the German bark, Captain W. G. Roder, all arrived on Sunday from Takao, and report moderate winds and weather throughout. The German bark *Will Homeyer* left Takao for this several days before the arrivals above-named, and may be in harbour at any moment. The British barquentine *Glenury* and the British bark *Lucia* were loading at Takao for this port when the recent arrivals sailed.

MATSUDA, the convict who escaped from the Ishikawa-jima jail on the 27th inst., was recaptured early on the morning of the 28th inst. at Itabashi. It appears that he had engaged a jinrikisha at Hongo, but unfortunately for him, the jinrikisha-man was a detective in disguise. The other convict, Akai Kagetaru, is still at large.

It is stated that the Presidents of all the Courts of Appeal throughout the Empire will assemble in Tokiyo during the course of next month, for the purpose of discussing various reforms which it is in contemplation to introduce into the working of the law courts in their districts.

THE Society for the Preservation of Celebrated Places (*Hoshokwai*) has contributed a sum of one thousand yen towards the restoration and repair of objects of national interest in the provinces of Omi and Tamba.

WHEN Bismarck, or rather the Reichstag acting under his direction, excluded the American hog, the newspaper press of the United States was unanimous in denouncing the "outrage;" but now that Bismarck has snubbed the American Congress, about half the papers express indifference to the insult. This shows the relative esteem in which Congress and the pig are held by some thoughtful patriots.—*Alla*.

THE REV. T. J. Scott, D.D., for twenty-two years a missionary in North India, will preach at the Union Church Tsukiji, Tokiyo, at 11 a.m. on Sunday next.

THE Russian steamer *Kamtschatka* was towed to Yokosuka on Friday for minor repairs to her machinery.

THE British bark *Guiding Star* sailed on Monday for Takao where she expects to load a cargo of sugar for this port.

WE are informed that the *City of Rio de Janeiro* left San Francisco in the 29th ultimo for this port.

FOREIGN VERSUS DOMESTIC
LOANS.

FORTUNATELY, for the clear understanding of certain propositions stated—but not proved—in a letter which we produce to-day, the *Fiyu Shimbun*, in a recent issue, discussed, at some length, the relative advantages of foreign loans contracted by the Government and foreign funds introduced at the risk of foreign capitalists. We say fortunately for the clear understanding of this problem, not because "Protectionist's" letter, so far as it goes, leaves anything to be desired in point of lucidity, but because it confines itself, in two places, to an undemonstrated statement of points which are the reverse of self-evident. The writer avows his "firm conviction that neither MILL'S writings, nor those of any theorist whose studies are confined to the European field of observation, are applicable to the conditions of this Eastern empire," and deprecates "the practice of applying, to the exigencies of this country, the doctrines and arguments of Western writers who have no knowledge of, or regard for, Japanese affairs." Interpolations of this nature when found in the context of a purely economical discussion, naturally assume an economical complexion, and suggest the idea that the uses of wealth, its fashions of fructification, and the sources from which it is derived, are not subject to the same general laws in Japan as in Europe. Such a theory cannot be seriously propounded. Japan, whether she progresses towards opulence or lapses into indigence, must fit her feet into the footsteps of all those that have travelled the same routes before. There is no side-path for her. If she is ever to grow rich, it must be by improving her means of internal and external transport, developing her foreign commerce, and extending the now paltry area of her cultivated lands. Since, then, each and every one of these processes is a recognised factor of wealth, similarly employed and similarly effective, throughout the civilized world, it becomes necessary, if we are to regard Japan's case as exceptional, to show that she is otherwise affected by conditions beyond the ordinary domain of economical science. What those conditions are our correspondent fails to indicate, and we can only suppose that he alludes to the dangers incidental to pecuniary obligations contracted by a weak, *vis-à-vis* a strong, Power. We, however, desired to keep these political considerations out of the discussion. They deal with an entirely distinct class of problems; and certainly, whatever influence they may exercise on the people of this country, to mix them up with purely economical arguments is confusing and illogical. It seems, nevertheless, an indisputable fact that the instinct of the Japanese is against foreign loans at present. They see what has happened to Egypt; they see what

has happened to Turkey; and they ask whether Japan ought not to be warned by these examples. The *Fiyu Shimbun* states the case plainly enough; though underlying its arguments is a desire, natural but a little exaggerated, to show that nothing good can come out of Japan until the people have a share in the Government. It says that the possibilities of ultimate failure would more than outweigh the momentary benefits derived from enterprises inaugurated by foreign loans; that the national habit being still to rely implicitly on the Government, the latter could not count on enlisting the active coöperation of the people in its schemes; and that great misfortune would be inevitable did mismanagement or false calculations attend the employment of the funds obtained abroad. There is much truth in these remarks. The stories of the Kaitakushi and of the Kamaishi Ironworks are in themselves sufficient evidence that the Government is not infallible, and that the nation has reason to be apprehensive of industrial ventures under official management. But while heartily endorsing our Tokiyo contemporary's general position that Japan would be adopting a perilous and unwise course did she enter the European market as a borrower of money to be employed by the Government in the ordinary routes of industry and trade, we think that the line ought to be drawn distinctly on this side of roads and railways. The urgent need of such works in Japan, and the incalculable benefits that would result from them, are beyond all doubt; while the ability of the people to construct them—not expert, but financial, ability—cannot, in our opinion, be assumed for a moment. It passes our comprehension to understand what political risks Japan would run by borrowing money at a reasonable rate of interest abroad, and employing it to supply herself with works which are absolutely essential to the development of national prosperity, which involve no chance of failure, and which would be at once the security for, and the means of repaying, the funds expended in their construction.

The question of fixing large portions of a country's capital by employing it to build railways, is one that has received much attention at the hands of writers on political economy. At the time when MILL discussed the problem, a majority of his countrymen were disquieted by the idea that England's conduct was recklessly unwise in this respect. The great economist undertook to combat their apprehensions, and showed, pretty conclusively we think, that "the railway operations of the various nations of the world may be looked upon as a sort of competition for the overflowing capital of the countries where profit is low and capital abundant, as England and Holland." He called "the English railway speculations a struggle to keep our annual increase of capital at home," and "those of foreign countries an effort to obtain it." In short,

he rested his whole case, for or against the expediency of thus fixing home capital, on the presence or absence of accumulations seeking investment. His immediate purpose, it is true, was to prove that England, possessing such accumulations, need not fear the consequences of applying them to railway construction; but the converse of every argument he deduced from England's overflowing opulence applies, with logical rigidity, to countries where capital is scarce and rates of interest are high. We are quite willing to admit, however, that MILL is not an infallible guide. The confusion he fell into by attempting to fit a capricious terminology to inflexible ideas has discredited much of what he wrote, and is forcibly, though not always quite justly, we think, illustrated by our correspondent. But though he was sufficiently illogical to call the man who makes a musical instrument a productive labourer and the man who plays on it unproductive, and though he differed from MACDONNEL, ADAM SMITH, and M'CULLOCH as to what ought and what ought not to be included in capital, while these three, again, differed equally radically from one another, there never yet has been any writer of note who pretends that money in all its forms is capital. Our correspondent evolves a number of ingenious and entertaining paradoxes from the apparent vagaries of MILL'S definitions, but he will pardon us if we say that no one of these paradoxes seems so startling as his own assertion:—"For my part, I must adhere to the statement that Japan, five or ten years hence, in possession of her railway *plus* the capital required for constructing it, will be richer than if she had only the railway without the capital—which would be the case if the amount were returned to lenders in Europe." What then becomes of the capital which, by the hypothesis, she originally obtained in Europe? And what, during this interval of five or ten years, becomes of the home capital which would otherwise have been diverted to the construction of the railway? Does that, too, go abroad? It cannot be pretended that a country parts with its own capital when it only repays what it has borrowed. If "Protectionist" takes the trouble to reduce the problem to a mathematical statement, he will find that, in the case of a foreign loan, so far from having a railway *minus* the money—not the capital, but the money—spent in constructing it, Japan, at the moment the line is opened, would have the railway *plus* the greater part of the borrowed money (which would then be circulating in the ordinary channels) *plus* the capital and its earnings which, in the case of a domestic loan, would have been diverted from other uses. The former plan takes nothing away, but simply enables the work to be accomplished without any call upon the national funds until the benefits conferred by the line begin to facilitate the repay-

ment of its cost. When transport is cheapened, when commodities are made accessible at trifling expense, when new markets are opened for districts more or less isolated, when the necessity for accumulating stocks is dispensed with throughout the land, when production is stimulated, and when the innumerable advantages a railway brings are actually experienced, the burden of paying the original cost of the line out of its earnings would scarcely be felt at all, whereas the task of finding the money now may, and we believe will, prove seriously embarrassing. The subject is so vital that we will venture to quote at some length from the writings of a living economist—Mr. BONAMY PRICE—between whom and our correspondent there is this bond of union, that both are equally sensible of the confusion into which MILL'S inelastic definitions betrayed him:—

There is no cause so common of financial crises and commercial depressions as an excessive construction of fixed capital. Large quantities of wealth are consumed and disappear altogether in the opening of great mines, the formation of railways with their tunnels and embankments, or the creation of great iron works. The food, clothing, and materials have been eaten and drunk up and worn out; they are cleared away, and nothing left except the works which have been made. So far, the consumption is a creator of poverty; for tunnels and shafts by themselves alone do not restore the food and clothing which have perished. The deficiency is not filled up even if these mines and railways go to work, and produce profits and yield good dividends. The capital, the wealth consumed in their construction, is still unrestored, and is not replaced until out of the profits, and before dividends are distributed, the original cost of making these works is repaid. The nation is poorer in things to use. The inevitable consequence is that there is less trade, for there is less to buy with, less to exchange, diminished traffics, fewer and reduced profits—precisely because there are fewer things, fewer goods in the country. This excess of creation of fixed capital—of capital, be it remembered, which is destroyed, and is not, for a long time, practically restored by wealth available for use—commonly follows a season of exceptional prosperity. Men are then hopeful, profits are good and abound, extension of business fascinates, trade is active, and demand for goods ever on the rise. At such times, as happened a few years ago in the iron and coal trades, new works are commenced in profusion. All this while the consumption of the national wealth proceeds rapidly in maintaining many labourers and in the development of luxurious consumption, in the fine weather of large profits; and it is followed by the consequences just described. Amongst these offenders none are so mischievous as railways. Promoters, desirous of premium, stock-brokers, and many others, who eagerly excite one another: the railway works are begun, and often the revulsion overtakes them before they are completed: the nation is stricken with poverty by their construction.

All these events react on the money market. The depositors of banks are unable to meet their calls; many fail, the others press for loans to save them from ruin. Deposits diminish; on many mercantile accounts, or bad bills, the banks incur heavy losses. Suspicion spreads in every quarter, as to what house is sound, on what bank a run may take place. Failures multiply—often amongst those who were the most favoured chiefs of financing. Then finally comes the crisis, which is in substance the settlement of losses, the discovery who are to be the ultimate losers, whether banks or individuals. When the agony has subsided, a long depression ensues; trade is painfully slack from the reduced wealth in movement; bills are scarce in the banking world, and 1 per cent. becomes its king. The suffering reaches its height in those very trades which had been stimulated in the day of sunshine to multiply new works for enlarged production. The means of producing are found to be in painful excess above the power of buying, and shut-up mines and closed factories visit wages and profits with annihilation.

Such are the terrible calamities with which construction of machines, which are amongst the most enriching known to man, may visit a people when carried to excess. A man with £50,000 a year

who does £100,000 worth of draining in one year, must be poor and in difficulties. A single individual may borrow, but a nation which puts itself in that position has no resources beyond itself, and must suffer. Railways and other fixed capital are to a people what draining is to the landlord—most powerful instruments for obtaining wealth; but they cannot be constructed without great destruction of wealth involved in making them. It is long before they come into action to replace what they have consumed; meanwhile food, clothing, iron, coals, are gone. In this vital matter there is only one way to escape injury: not to make more fixed capital beyond the amount of savings. Within that limit there is perfect safety, and such an application of surplus wealth is excellent. Savings may be thrown into the sea, and no poverty will ensue; if converted into instruments for production they become permanent gains.

It may be asked, how is a people to learn the extent to which they may create fixed capital without loss? how are they to discover how much they are saving? No rule can be given; it is a matter of actual trial; it can never be ascertained accurately. But one influence may exercise immense power in guarding against the danger: a thorough understanding of the principle which governs this vital subject by all who take a lead in commencing new enterprises. If every banker, every trader, and every producer grasped firmly the truth that savings must not be exceeded by the nation, and profoundly felt the disasters which the neglect of this truth must entail, a spirit of caution and observation and prudent reflection would be engendered which would control extravagance in the costly investments on fixed capital.

Now what we would enquire is simply this—has Japan savings to invest in railways, and have her financiers “grasped firmly the truth that savings must not be exceeded by the nation, and profoundly felt the disasters which the neglect of this truth must entail”? We cannot honestly answer either question in the affirmative. The country is now passing through that crisis which has everywhere attended the resumption of specie payments; a crisis of which the most salient features are that capital is withheld from the channels of industry and production, and that the commercial energy of the nation is paralyzed. Yet this is the very moment chosen to divert large sums of capital to uses which cannot for several years begin to return the wealth they absorb. That the instincts of the people should turn, at such a time, in the direction of railways and roads as the only means of developing production and stimulating industry, is natural enough, but it will be truly unfortunate if a scheme so excellent in itself should entail fresh disaster by an unwise method of prosecution.

THE FOREIGN MERCHANTS AND THE CURRENCY.

THE Memorial of the Foreign Community, addressed to their Representatives in March, 1882, contains an interesting assertion; namely, that were industry stimulated by allowing the people to freely charter foreign vessels, a salutary “influence would be exerted upon the present seriously depreciated and fluctuating paper currency.” The reasons assigned for this statement are as follows:—“More trade means a greater demand for a circulating medium of exchange; a demand which would have a direct tendency to raise currency to a near approach to, if not entirely to par with, specie. The increased income of

the Government would enable them to undertake a moderate scheme of redemption of currency with specie; and that, combined with the cheering influences of a reviving commerce, would inspirit the people and exert a most beneficial influence upon the nation.”

This, being the first expression of opinion publicly placed on record by the community, as a body, with regard to the currency, deserves more than a passing notice. Speaking briefly, the memorialists, in 1882, advised Japanese financiers to leave *Kinsatsu* alone, and confine themselves temporarily to a measure which, by augmenting the facilities for marine transport, might stimulate production and trade, and so create a greater demand for a circulating medium. Then, subsequently, when the revenue from taxation increased, a moderate scheme of resumption could be undertaken. This plan has certainly the advantage of deliberation. The prediction of the memorialists depends mainly on a hypothesis that the production of cereals is already largely in excess of home consumption, and that agricultural industry languishes for lack of new markets. We have shown in a previous article that the annual crop of rice does not appear to be much more than the people require for their own use, and that the peculiar conditions under which the coasting trade is now carried on by Japanese junks, render it likely that their displacement by foreign bottoms, even if the latter were easily procurable, would be a very gradual process. The case might be different were foreign traders able to visit the interior, buy what they wanted, and ship it directly. We should then have the combination of merchant and carrier which the junks offer, and to which producers have become attached. But this means opening the country, and the measure on which the memorialists based their hope of currency appreciation did not ostensibly contemplate more than extending the employment of foreign vessels by Japanese. They assumed that the factor chiefly needed to develop trade is increased facilities for marine transport, and that those facilities could be obtained by permitting Japanese to charter foreign vessels; and on the strength of this assumption, they recommended the Government not to meddle with the currency until an increased revenue brought a moderate scheme of redemption within reach. It would certainly be unjust to hold this community responsible for the utterances of the local newspapers which profess to represent it, but we may be pardoned if we recall, here, the journalistic censure persistently uttered against the apparent inaction of Japanese financiers both before and after the period when this document was presented to the Foreign Representatives. And, indeed, it is difficult to believe that either foreigners or Japanese would have been content to

see the policy advocated by the memorialists adopted. The Government's only normal source of specie revenue, and therefore the only source from which it could derive funds for currency redemption, is the Customs. Assuming that in the course of four or five years the proposed shipping facilities produced an augmentation of 20 per cent. in the bulk of the foreign trade, there would be available an annual sum of half a million dollars to redeem *Kinsatsu*. If in five years more, trade doubled, redemption would be proceeding at the rate of a million a year; and granting this liberal rate of development, the total redemption affected in fifteen years would amount to twelve millions. In the meanwhile commerce would have been fighting an uphill battle against that most fatal of all opponents, a depreciated and constantly fluctuating currency; for it is impossible to suppose that such petty operations as these could sensibly increase the value or stability of *Kinsatsu*. Neither would the silver thus dribbled out remain in the country. It would be displaced by the inferior medium as fast as it came into the market. In general every objection advanced against meddling with the media of exchange may be freely endorsed. But it is difficult to believe in any measure that stops short of actual redemption, and to make redemption possible, it was necessary to bring the bulk of the *Kinsatsu* in circulation within manageable limits. That the Government has been somewhat precipitate in its efforts to secure that end seems proved by existing conditions. The memorialists, by increasing the demand for paper tokens, would have reduced the ratio their volume bore to the functions they had to perform: the Government, by diminishing their volume, has attained the same result in a different way. The former process would have been exceedingly slow, if, indeed, it could ever have succeeded entirely: the latter has been unduly rapid, and the consequences entailed are still severely felt. But it is only fair to observe that had the Government's proposals for treaty revision met with reasonable consideration,—had these privileges of trading passports and the free employment of foreign ships, together with other concessions, been exchanged for a slight modification of the present extraterritorial system—the measures recommended by the memorialists might have been in force long ago.

As things stand now, however, it can scarcely be contested that the mitigating influence of some measure calculated to foster industry and commerce would be widely beneficial. Unless the conditions of Japan have greatly changed during the past two years, such a measure is indicated in the Memorial of the foreign merchants. What is wanted is the opening of the country. Anybody might then charter foreign vessels to go anywhere, and if there are products waiting to be exported, foreigners could go in search

of them. It is impossible, with this Memorial before us, to doubt that the commercial community is generally sensible of the advantages to be derived from the abolition of restrictions which have long ceased to be necessary. We have the unanimous declaration of all the merchants in Yokohama that enlarged privileges of trade, travel, and residence "bear closely upon the future commercial progress of the Japanese and strike at the very foundation of the grievances of which foreigners justly yet vainly complain," and to this may now be added, that to these enlarged privileges alone can we look for any rapid revival of trade and consequent relief from the hardship and suffering inseparable from the period that precedes a resumption of specie payments.

A RECENTLY CONCLUDED CHAPTER OF JAPANESE HISTORY.

AS an illustration of the working of Japanese Government machinery under the old *régime*, the events which led to the recent issue of Notification No. 1 of the Imperial Privy Council possess much interest. The Notification itself was not likely to attract foreign attention. It simply gave expression to the will of HIS MAJESTY the EMPEROR that the posthumous title of DAJO TENNO and name of KEIKO TENNO should be conferred upon NORIHITO SHINNO, father of the Emperor KOKAKU. Hitherto this Prince had been known as DAZAI SOTSU-NO-MIYA, or the second KANIN-NO-MIYA. His father was NAWOHITO SHINNO, son of the Emperor TOZAN. As the Emperor GO-TOYEN (TOYEN the second, known after his death as MOMO-ZONO II.) had no child, he adopted the fifth son of SOTSU-NO-MIYA, a youth named KANEHITO SHINNO, who was not only HIS MAJESTY'S nearest relative but also conspicuous for intelligence and erudition. This adoption took place in 1779, and, in December of the ensuing year, KANEHITO ascended the throne. He is known in history as KOKAKU TENNO. The reigning EMPEROR is the great-grandson of KOKAKU, and consequently great-great-grandson of NORIHITO SHINNO or SOTSU-NO-MIYA.

The idea of conferring the title of DAJO TENNO upon NORIHITO SHINNO was first conceived by his son, the Emperor KOKAKU, but met with determined opposition at the hands of the nobles attached to the SHOGUN'S Court. The principle involved in conferring such a title is connected with the rites of ancestral worship. So long as this particular mark of respect was not paid, the body of NORIHITO would have to lie after death facing the north, and would be condemned to enjoy only the imperfect measure of rest attaching to that posture. On the other hand, NORIHITO had never ascended the throne, and precedents for raising him to the rank of TENNO (Son of Heaven, *i.e.* Emperor), if not absolutely

wanting, were, at all events, few. In old times there had been no instance of such a course,¹ though it had certainly been pursued in various cases from the twelfth to the sixteenth century. The proposal of the Emperor KOKAKU was, therefore, not absolutely without historical warrant, and, for the rest, could only have emanated from instincts of filial piety. Nevertheless it provoked vehement opposition. History says that the discussion commenced in 1792, but there is documentary evidence to prove that KOKAKU had conceived and given expression to the design as early as 1789. This evidence is in the form of a letter forwarded by the *Shoshidai* (Representatives of the SHOGUN) is Kiyoto to MASTUDAIRA YETCHIU-NO-KAMI, one of the SHOGUN'S Councillors of State. It ran as follows:—

Kanin-no-Miya, who now wields the Imperial sceptre under the title of Kokaku Tenno, desires to confer the title of *Daio Tenno* upon his father. He communicated his wishes to us in the first year of Kwansei (1789); and in order to obtain an answer from the Shōgun, we forwarded a copy of a document addressed to us by the Court Nobles. In accordance with your instructions, we have now persuaded the Nobles to reconsider the question, pointing out to them, as you explained, that the bestowal of high titles is a matter of grave importance.

It appears, indeed, that all the Court Nobles approved the EMPEROR'S idea, for though some were disposed to think that the title of *In*, which is less exalted than *Tenno*, should be first given, and that of *Daio Tenno* afterwards, the rest insisted that the whole matter should be left to the EMPEROR'S decision. Neither were they shaken in their opinion when instructed to reconsider it, and we find them once again admonished by MATSUDAIRA through the *Shoshidai*, in the following terms:—

Whatever peculiar custom may exist in the Imperial Court, or have been handed down from generation to generation, must not be observed without reference to the actual circumstances of the time and to public criticism. It is not imperative that all precedents should be followed. The Shōgun will doubtless give the Emperor's project his careful consideration, but it is not probable that he will express a definite opinion immediately.

The EMPEROR, finding himself thus opposed by the SHOGUN'S Representatives in Kiyoto, despatched two delegates to Kuanto, namely, the two Dainagon, NAKAYAMA TADANARI and OGIMACHI KIMI-AKIRA.² The SHOGUN was then IYENARI. By a strange coincidence, he, too, was anxious to confer exceptional rank on his father, who had not been SHOGUN, and was then occupying the post of Dainagon.

¹ It had not been pursued in the cases of Yamatotake-no-Mikoto, father of Chiui-Tenno; Ishibei Oshihito-no-Oji, father of Kenso Tenno; Hiko-ushi, father of Keitai Tenno; Oshisaka Hikoito Oye-no-Oji, father of Keihin Tenno, or Chimu, father of Kōkiyoku Tenno. In the middle ages administrative etiquette was more or less capricious, and posthumous honours were first conferred on Prince Kusakabe father of Bumbu Tenno. He was given the title of Okano-Miya Tenno. Subsequently the appellation of Sōdō Jinkai Kwotei was conferred on Iyehito Shinno, father of Junten Tenno; and that of Tawara Tenno on Yoshimoto Shinno, father of Kōjin Tenno. Later on we find Morisada Shinno, father of Go-Horikawa Tenno (1222) called Go-Takakura-in; and Sadanari Shinno, father of Go-Hanazono Tenno (1429) called Go-Sōkō-in. These two princes received the titles during their lifetimes. The most recent example of a posthumous title had been that of Yōkō-in, conferred on Nobuhito Shinno, father of Go-Yōsei Tenno (1587).

² There are several books such as *Nakayama Yumono-gatari* and *Nakayama Mondōki*, which contain accounts of the arrival of the Imperial messengers in Kuanto, but these accounts partake rather of romance than of history.

IYENARI, therefore, was impatiently looking for an opportunity to relieve his father from active service and remove him to the Western Castle under the title of OGOSHO. Here, however, cropped up the same difficulty that stood in the EMPEROR'S way. The title of OGOSHO was usually confined to those who had actually held the rank of SHOGUN. IYENARI, then, hoping that if the EMPEROR'S proposal with regard to NORIHITO were carried out, a powerful precedent would be established in favour of his own design, eagerly awaited the arrival of the Imperial delegates, and in the meanwhile informed his principal officers of his purpose, which received their approval. But MATSUDAIRA YETCHIU-NO-KAMI again interfered. He repeated his arguments that, whatever ancient precedents might exist, to confer the title of DAJO TENNO upon a prince who had not ascended the throne would be a breach of etiquette, adding that if the SHOGUN were to follow the EMPEROR'S example, the result could scarcely fail to lead to trouble, and might possibly obscure the great distinction which ought to exist between the EMPEROR and the SHOGUN. MATSUDAIRA seems to have advanced these objections with many expressions of respectful reluctance, but his tone was exceedingly firm, and his reputation as a man not less virtuous than wise gave irresistible weight to his views. His colleagues ultimately came over to his way of thinking, and when the delegate NAKAYAMA, himself a noble of great erudition and eloquence, laid his Imperial Master's proposal before the Council, a vehement discussion ensued. Finally the delegates were told that a conclusive answer would be given after further consideration, and, obliged to be content with this, they returned to Kiyoto unsuccessful. The SHOGUN'S expression of a corresponding purpose had, in fact, added largely to the difficulties of the situation, for though a point might have been stretched in the EMPEROR'S case, the notion that this departure from etiquette was to be immediately made a pretext for a still more radical and unprecedented proceeding on the part of the SHOGUN, shocked the conservative propriety of the times.

The delegates, however, did not yet acknowledge their defeat. On August 9th, 1792, we find them addressing the following letter to the Shoshidai :—

Your Lordships—We await the Shogun's reply with regard to the bestowal of a title upon the Prince Kanin-no-Miya. We have already had the honour, in several despatches, to make you acquainted with the Emperor's real sentiments on the subject, and His Majesty will be much distressed if we fail to obtain a definite answer from the Shogun before the approaching Festival of the Harvest. Various unavoidable circumstances render the necessity of obtaining a speedy reply imperative. In the beginning of November steps will be taken with a view to conferring the title in question.

The EMPEROR, it will be seen, or at any rate his advisers, were determined to bring matters to a conclusion. Nevertheless, the Yedo Court remained silent until the 28th

of August, when the following despatch was sent to the Shoshidai in Kiyoto, over the signatures of all the SHOGUN'S Councillors :—

With regard to your recent private correspondence on the subject of conferring an honorary title upon Kanin-no-Miya, the Shogun has expressed an opinion that as the Emperor's desire is dictated by an earnest anxiety to show his filial piety, some measures should be taken with a view to satisfying His Majesty's wishes. But as the proposed title of *Daijo Tenno* is of an exceedingly exalted nature, it seems unbecoming that it should be conferred on the Prince. If, however, the Emperor desires to honour his father, he may augment his estates, or adopt some other method of accomplishing that end. In such event, the Shogun will take the matter into consideration and decide it in conference with his Ministers. You will be good enough to communicate the contents of this despatch to the Court Nobles.

It was plain enough from this that the SHOGUN'S Ministers were not disposed to yield. Nevertheless, the Court Nobles again addressed the Shoshidai as follows :—

Although the Prince's estates may be enlarged and palaces constructed for him, yet the existing rules of etiquette would require him to lie facing northwards after death, so long as he possesses only the rank of Shinno (Prince). The Emperor cannot reconcile himself to this notion. It is nevertheless true that the measures contemplated by His Majesty will, if carried out, furnish a precedent to future generations, so that the question demands the Shogun's careful and disinterested consideration. We consequently take the liberty of giving expression to the Emperor's ideas in the sense indicated by himself. His Majesty, it appears, is obliged by unavoidable circumstances, having reference to the approaching Harvest Festival, to put his intentions into practice, and he intends to bestow the proposed title on the Prince in November. Although we have been instructed to persuade His Majesty to devise some other plan of accomplishing his purpose, we fail to see how he can suggest anything unsupported by precedent.

On the 2nd of October this despatch was followed by another from the same source, announcing that the EMPEROR had become still more fixed in his purpose, and that he had actually communicated his intentions to the Prince, his father. But the day after its receipt this communication was handed back to its writers by the Shoshidai, accompanied by a despatch in which the SHOGUN, while giving credit to the EMPEROR'S filial piety, repeated his refusal to sanction the Imperial proposal without further consideration, and desired that the EMPEROR'S delegates, who had again repaired to Yedo, should be instructed to leave the Kuantō without delay. The EMPEROR at last yielded to this determined opposition. His Nobles handed to the Shoshidai a despatch couched in these terms :—

Considering that to enforce his ideas without regard to the circumstances of the time can scarcely fail to create serious complications between his officers and those of the Shogunate, the Emperor has signified his willingness to put off conferring a title upon his father until he receives a definite answer from the Shogun.

The EMPEROR'S remarkable moderation did not save his Councillors from punishment. The delegates NAKAYAMA and OGIMACHI were ordered to remove from their residences to a temple called Seishoji, and during their confinement there, steps were taken to have them deprived of their offices at the Imperial Court. Others were similarly disgraced and several received severe reprimands. Writers of the

present time,³ while agreeing that intelligent public opinion was opposed to the EMPEROR'S design, and that MATSUDAIRA YETCHIU-NO-KAMI was well-advised in his opposition, condemn the proceedings he subsequently instituted against the Imperial Councillors, and hold that the considerate yielding of the Court ought to have ended the affair. Had MATSUDAIRA and his fellow-thinkers, say these critics, refrained from finding fault with the EMPEROR'S intention after its abandonment, and apologized for the opposition their duty had obliged them to offer, they would have left behind them the reputation of wise statesmen and loyal subjects. Unfortunately, however, they fell into the vulgar error of pushing their advantage beyond the accomplishment of their object. The EMPEROR himself seems to have harboured no umbrage on account of the rebuff he had received. On the contrary, he celebrated the restoration of concord between the two Courts in the following couplet :—

The sweet notes of the harp that sounds in the East (Yedo)
Are now harmonized with the melody of the birds
That warble songs in the trees of my courtyard.

Yet when we remember all that is meant in Japan by filial piety, we can readily understand with what reluctance and chagrin the EMPEROR must have yielded to an opposition so careful of the form and careless of the spirit. KOKAKU reigned more than twenty years after this event, but he never made any fresh attempt to carry out a purpose which now, more than a century after it was first conceived, has been consummated by a Sovereign less dependent and not less pious than his ancestor. It is a strange episode in the history of this strange country, and those who read it carefully will not fail to find food for reflections of larger scope than we can attempt to note here.

AS OTHERS SEE US.

AT the last meeting of the Shanghai Literary and Debating Society, the Rev. Y. K. YEN, a Chinese divine, delivered a remarkable discourse on Foreign-Chinese intercourse. Mr. YEN is a courageous man. He does not hesitate to stand up before an English audience, and tell them plainly what he thinks, whether his statements are calculated to flatter or to offend. Not less creditable than his pluck was the courteous appreciation it received from his hearers—an appreciation which goes far to show that if English generosity does not always display its best aspects in Oriental intercourse, it is, at least, ready to accord its accusers a fair hearing. Mr. YEN commenced by disputing the theory that international law imposes on nations any obligation to enter into commercial relations. He held that intercourse of that nature is nothing more than "a duty, an exercise of good-will." To the former fallacy he ascribed many unjust phases of

³ Vide the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, from which most of the above facts are extracted.

the treaties that have been concluded between Western and Eastern states. He did not travel to Japan for an illustration of his proposition, but one cannot help reflecting how truly his words are borne out by the state of affairs actually existing in this country, where foreign journalists and writers in the local English press insist on elevating into perpetual and inalienable rights privileges granted under terminable treaties; and where, on the other hand, the same persons disavow any obligation to extend their commercial intercourse with Japan beyond the narrow limits they themselves laid down a quarter of a century ago. Mr. YEN did not travel to Japan probably because he thought there was sufficient material for his purpose at home; and it seems to us, perusing his lecture, that he was right. He admitted, frankly, that "the average European, in his normal condition, is more honorable, humane, and noble than the average Chinese of the same class," but of the average European in an abnormal condition—that is to say, in the Orient—he entertained a less favorable opinion. None but principles so deep-seated as to be almost innate survive the shock of life among men who are less enlightened than oneself and moreover of a different race. There is a law of evolution, but there is also a law of reversion. Even the civilized Western is more or less the creature of his environment. At one time the instinct of self-preservation impels him to be aggressive; at another, the absence of restraint tempts him to be immoral. In fine, living in the Orient, he retrogrades in character and conduct. So, at any rate, thinks Mr. YEN, and in support of his plausible theory he adduced some facts worth quoting:—

Certain foreigners, under the avowed object of building a tramway, so blinded the Taotai that he stretched his paternal influence in making the farmers sell their lands. When they got the title deeds, lo and behold! they laid a railway. The official remonstrated, and even threatened to lie on the track to stop the locomotive. Their answer, which was worthy of a sophister, was that as they were owners of the road, they could do what they chose with it, and that as to the threat, the life was his and in his power to keep or to lose. Did this affair reflect honour or dishonour on those concerned? Again, when our government, in order to preserve its right of saying when, where, and how the rail-road will be, bought the company up at the full value, instead of making an international question of it, the foreign press generally taunted it with stupid waste of money and with anti-progress. Was not this taunt adding insult to injury? Several years ago, a European bought goods from the Chinese with promise to pay as soon as they were shipped. When the steamer had gone, it was found that he had used the bank advances, to satisfy his own countryman. Now, whatever he was to them, certainly he was not honourable to the Chinese. There is a European selling his name to a Chinese hong to aid him to defraud his government; there is another doing the same to a river lorcha; at every port, there are members who make it a regular business to obtain transit passes for Chinese-owned goods. In each case a treaty privilege is outrageously misused, which, even if legally enjoyed, is nothing less than an over-reaching, and therefore utterly wrong from the beginning. It is yet more incredible, that when such abuses had been noticed at all by Consuls, it was the buyers of the privilege who were punished, while the sellers were allowed to go their way rejoicing.

It may well be supposed that Mr. YEN did not fail to notice the physical violence so

generally resorted to by Europeans in their dealings with Chinamen, as well as the strange sense of justice which induces the foreign rate-payers of Shanghai to withhold all share in the municipality from their Chinese fellow-residents, who, nevertheless, contribute equally to the municipal funds. We in Yokohama are accustomed to the often re-iterated assertion that the foreign residents are entitled to a voice in the local government. Here, however, the simple answer is, that in no part of the world does such a right belong to aliens who neither pay taxes nor are subject to the laws of the State. But on what grounds the exclusion of the Shanghai Chinese is justified, we have never heard and cannot conceive. Another point made was that while Chinese in Shanghai are tried by a Mixed Court with mixed penalties, the foreigner is tried by his own Court, "his judges being often his friends, or of the same club or society." Altogether the lecturer concluded that the character of foreigners in China is not the same as their character when in their own countries, and that a corresponding difference ought to exist in the codes of law applied to them. Whether it was intended by this to assert that Chinese Laws are good enough for foreigners in China, Mr. YEN did not explain. Probably his secret opinions inclined in that direction; but, openly, he confined himself to claiming that for foreigners also there ought to be a Mixed Court "where those who behaved like savages or barbarians should be governed by barbarous laws."

This is a startling proposition, and it might be supposed that the statements upon which it was based would have been combatted by Mr. YEN'S audience in the debate that followed the reading of his paper. Two or three gentlemen did, indeed, take exception to a general charge of inhumanity or injustice being preferred against foreigners in China, but no one questioned the lecturer's facts. Perhaps the most interesting explanation was advanced by a speaker who referred the antagonism between foreigners and Chinese to the circumstance that the whole Chinese nation is impregnated with the idea of its intellectual superiority to other nations. This was treading on dangerous ground. The average foreigner in Japan, if asked why he refuses to pay to Japanese rights even a measure of the respect he claims for his own, will complacently reply that he is a superior being, and that the Japanese, being inferior, must not expect equal consideration. He does not perhaps carry his self-sufficiency quite so far as to expect that the Japanese will be pleased with this comparison. But among the rights he denies them is certainly included that of being displeased. Yet if the Chinaman's arrogance entitles him to be disliked by foreigners, it is difficult to see why the latter's openly asserted superiority should seem less unattractive in Japanese eyes.

We do not believe in the advisability of applying severer codes to foreigners in the East, first, because it is rather the apathy of public opinion than the leniency of the law that is in fault; and secondly, because, although there are Western ruffians as well as Oriental ruffians, the former are the exception not the rule. But we do wish that there were a good many Mr. YENS both in China and Japan, to tell us candidly how we look in Chinese and Japanese eyes.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[Our readers must distinctly understand that we are in no sense responsible for the sentiments or opinions of our Correspondents, for the accuracy of their assertions, or for the deductions they may choose to draw therefrom.]

DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN LOANS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—In asking permission to discuss still further the question of the relative advantage of domestic and foreign loans, I am not moved by any vain desire to persist in a public controversy, but by a sincere anxiety to support, as far as I am able to do so, a policy which I regard as essential to the welfare of this nation. I would have been glad, if possible, to hold strictly to what concerns Japan; to limit myself by considerations of her interests only; and not to wander into economic inquiries which relate especially to Western States, and are not precisely suited to a country so peculiarly circumstanced as this is. But you have thought it desirable to draw so largely upon a distinguished English author, that I am in a manner compelled to examine the various statements you have quoted from his works; notwithstanding my firm conviction that neither his writings, nor those of any theorist whose studies are confined to the European field of observation, are applicable to the conditions of this Eastern empire. I am compelled, I say, to do this, partly because I am appealing to readers, many of whom are in the habit of regarding an advocate as vanquished in a debate, if he allows any strong—or apparently strong—argument against him to pass unanswered. I am not ambitious to be set down as vanquished, any more than the next man;—above all, when I believe myself to be absolutely in the right. I shall therefore take the liberty to investigate certain remarks of Mr. Mill,—by which you are largely influenced,—upon their own merits, before proceeding to show that, even if they were invulnerable in themselves, they would have little or nothing to do with the subject in hand.

I believe I am correct in saying that you accuse me of a general inability to understand the question at issue, because I do not appreciate the difference between capital and money. "Underlying the whole of 'Protectionist's' argument, and for the most part vitiating it," you declare, "is an apparent confusion between money and capital." Again,—“all through his argument there is observable the same tendency to confuse money and capital.” To prove that there is, and must be, a broad distinction between the two things, you cite a passage from the Fifth Chapter of Mill's First Book. I might reject this evidence entirely, if I chose, for the reasons, (1) that it refers to a subject quite apart from that immediately under scrutiny; (2) that you have omitted a line which, I think, would demonstrate its inapplicability, and (3) that, in the original, the word "capital" does not occur at all. The phrase which you give thus:—“simply confounding capital with money,”—appears in Mill's work in these words,—“simply confounding money with wealth.” But I shall not take advantage of either the oversight or the slip of the pen. I admit that Mill does, in various places, strive to set capital and money apart, and that in this effort he has been followed by numerous disciples, greatly to the bewilderment of students,

and by no means to the advantage of his own reputation for consistency. It is no doubt true that, among the primary teachings of what is called "political economy," certain clear statements as to the meaning and the importance of money are necessary; together with warnings of the impropriety of considering money and capital identical. But it is one thing to say that money is not exclusively capital, and quite another to attempt to dissociate then utterly. In doing the latter, Mr. Mill pushed a favorite idea of his to the verge of fanaticism. He undertook to establish, as an axiom, a mere sophism which no other great authority in economic science ever attempted to demonstrate, and which he found it impossible to maintain in his own pages. The one teacher to whom Mill looks up with unvarying admiration is Adam Smith, and it is worth while to glance back, for a moment, to that eminent master's view of this matter. A few brief extracts will serve the purpose as well as a hundred, and I will avail myself of the privilege, (here and throughout this communication), of italicising such words as are decisive:—

That part of the capital of the farmer which is employed in the instruments of agriculture is a fixed, that which is employed in the wages and maintenance of his labouring servants is a circulating capital. . . . Both the price and the maintenance of the cattle . . . are a circulating capital.

The third and last of the three portions into which the general stock of the society naturally divides itself, is the circulating capital. . . . It is composed of four parts:—first of the money by means of which all the other three are circulated, etc.

Money, no doubt, makes always a part of the national capital, etc.

Further examples are, I trust, unnecessary. Probably the last sentence, by itself, would have been sufficient. Let me now turn to Mr. Mill, himself.

In the Fourth Chapter of his First Book, he gravely propounds theories which I find it as difficult to take seriously as the enunciations of the grave-digger, in "Hamlet," concerning "crown's quest law." "What capital does for production," says Mill, "is to afford the shelter, protection, tools, and materials which the work requires, and to feed and otherwise maintain the labourers during the process. . . . A manufacturer has one part of his capital in the form of buildings. . . . Another part he has in the form of machinery. A third consists, if he be a spinner, of raw cotton, flax, or wool," etc. These things are capital; but money, we are told, is *not*. Suppose we inquire how the manufacturer got them. He did not erect the buildings, nor make the machinery, nor grow the cotton, with his own hands. Certainly not—he bought them; paid for them with money. Nevertheless, we are expected to believe that until he had paid over the money, and become the owner, he was not a capitalist. But how is it with regard to the food and maintenance? Mr. Mill explains that "it is not the custom of the present age that he (the manufacturer) should directly provide" these. "Instead of this, each capitalist has money, which he pays to his work-people and so enables them to supply themselves." Now, we are instructed, this money is not capital while the manufacturer possesses it, nor is it capital after he has paid it to his work-people. With it, however, the latter buy food, which *is* capital, if you please.* Mr. Mill would affirm that, though a man may have a million dollars, in coin, notes, bills of exchange, or what-

ever, and may be seeking for opportunities of investing that sum, he possesses no capital until after he has bought the several implements required for a particular enterprise. He actually draws the picture of "the arrival of a foreigner in a place, with a treasure of gold and silver," and sends him into business there. But he scrupulously avoids admitting that this stranger possesses any capital. He calls it "treasure," "fortune," "money," "funds," and exhausts his vocabulary of synonyms; yet diligently guards himself from designating it as capital. But are you, Mr. Editor, prepared to assert that theory? If a foreigner should come to Japan, bringing a hundred thousand dollars to invest, would you say he had no capital—would you decline to call him a capitalist—until he had actually exchanged a portion or the whole of his money for machinery, tools, houses, or what might be needed for his undertakings? Mr. Mill would seem to go still further, for he announces, in so many words, that "the distinction between Capital and Not-capital" lies "in the mind of the capitalist—in his will to employ them (i.e. the commodities he has purchased) for one purpose rather than another,"—so that, if we accept this proposition unreservedly, a man is or is not a capitalist, according to the temporary turn of his imagination. When he is thinking of employing his property for productive purposes, he possesses capital; when he fancies he will use it otherwise, he possesses no capital. I am afraid some readers who are unacquainted with Mill's writings may suspect that I am straining a point for a particular effect. I can hardly blame them; but I wish to have it understood that I consider the subject, in its broad bearings, much too serious for such levity of treatment. Anyone who will read the closing lines of Mill's Book I, Chapter IV., Section I., will see that I have quoted his words with literal fidelity.

Mr. Mill is never weary of reiterating his assertions as to the intrinsic insignificance of money. He makes it a text wherever he discovers an opportunity for doing so. In one place he goes to the remarkable length of stating that "it is not with money that things are really purchased." But when he enters upon practical discussion, he becomes inadvertent, and speaks of money in a less visionary way. Before he has finished the paragraph in which the above curious asseveration appears, he contradicts himself by speaking of labourers' selling certain articles, corn, hay, etc., "for money." In the paragraph next following, he remarks that "things which by barter would exchange for one another, will, if sold for money, sell for an equal amount of it." Thus, in the very same page, he tells us that things are *not bought* for money, and that things are *sold* for money. In the ensuing chapter, moreover, he observes that "if prices are low, money will buy much of other things," etc. Again, he informs us that "money carries its purchasing power wherever it goes." Numerous instances of similar wavering may be seen in his volumes. On one occasion he modifies his cherished theory by saying that "money and finished goods are *not wholly* capital;"—thereby admitting that they are partly so. On another, he talks of "£1,000, of capital." On another, he plainly refers to the funds used by a buyer of velvet as capital. On another, he alludes to the "portion of capital which is paid as the wages, or consumed as the subsistence, of labourers." Even in the supposed case, previously cited,—of a foreigner bringing "treasure" into a country, and investing it,—although he will not acknowledge that the new comer's "gold and silver" are capital, he speaks of their effect, when invested, on the "floating capital" of other persons in the same country, which he thinks may be sent abroad for foreign investment. Now this "floating capital" consists of money, and cannot be anything else; and is "sent abroad" in some portable form. So, mark you, the money which a foreigner brings to a country for investment is *not* capital; but the money sent out of a country for investment *is* capital. Finally, in a

moment of relaxed vigilance, one might suppose, he expresses himself in the following words:—"A fund may be seeking for productive employment, and find none adapted to the inclinations of its possessor: it then is capital, but unemployed capital." Into such entanglements does this distinguished writer lead himself, by his theoretical adherence to an idea which his practical sense rejects. These inconsistencies, which are plenty as blackberries in Mill's works, go far, I take it, to invalidate his allegations respecting the impossibility of associating money with capital. He has fallen into an error against which he warns others when he admonishes them how "fatal is the habit of thinking through the medium of only one set of technical phrases." The truth is, I make bold to affirm, that while money is not exclusively capital, and while capital has always existed in many other shapes besides money, the latter is, in all civilized societies, a form of capital the importance of which ought never to be disputed, nor even doubted.†

Carrying this branch of the subject to a legitimate conclusion, I might ask, Mr. Editor, why *you* object to the investments, by Japanese citizens, in the new railway bonds. What do they invest? Money, and nothing but money. What you contend against, however, is the "sinking of capital," which must not, you assert, be confounded with money. So long as the public offer only money in exchange for the bonds, you ought not to remonstrate. When they begin to offer (and the Government to accept) machinery, tools, clothing, and other articles, it will be time for you to protest,—these things being capital. But if I pursued this line of reasoning I should be justly accused of quibbling. Quibbling is a practice which affords me no satisfaction, nor am I overjoyed when others indulge in it. I think, therefore, I may omit further consideration of the fallacy that money is not capital, and endeavour to present, in words which will allow of no misunderstanding, what I believe to be your real cause of anxiety. It is premised that there is a certain amount of money "lying idle," at the present time, in Japan. Incidentally I must remark that in your article of March 1st (*Weekly Mail*), you threw the burden of that hypothesis upon me; whereas, in my previous letter, I simply adopted it from your earlier article of Feb. 9th (*Weekly Mail*), expressly quoting the words. But I assume there need be no dispute as to the existence of money lying idle at this moment. You are convinced that this money will be needed for "industrial and commercial enterprises," "so soon as prices shall have completely adjusted themselves to the altered value of *Kinsatsu*," and that it should consequently be kept lying idle until that time; or, at any rate, that it should not be used in an investment from which it cannot be promptly extricated. This, I think, is the true substance of your objection to the employment of Japanese funds in the building of the railway. I observe, necessarily, that you say nothing as to the character of the domestic enterprises to be developed in the future, nor as to the period when they may be set on foot. The latter item, indeed, can be only guessed at. From present appearances, no definite or fixed adjustment of prices can be looked for at an early date. It would have been convenient if you had named a time when these industries might reasonably be expected to awaken. You would hardly desire people to keep their money lying idle for a year or more. Adam Smith was of opinion that "in all countries where there is tolerable security, every man of common understanding will endeavour to employ whatever stock he can command, in procuring either present enjoyment or future profit. . . . A man must be perfectly crazy who, where there is tolerable security, does not employ all the stock which he commands," etc. I do not forget that, in the case of Japan, you do

* I may mention incidentally that Mr. Mill gives the following definition of capital:—"Things destined to supply productive labour with its various *pre-requisites*,"—including food. His use of the word *pre-requisites* is not accidental, yet he forgets that the employer does not as a rule, pay out wages until after the day's work, or the week's work, is completed. Now, suppose a labourer to have finished a job for one capitalist on Monday, and to begin another, for a different capitalist on Tuesday. The food which he eats on Tuesday, before he gets any return for the second job, is of course capital, according to Mr. Mill. Then who is the capitalist, in this instance? Not the first employer, certainly; his enterprise is at an end, and under any circumstances he would not be the capitalist of a stranger's enterprise. Not the second employer, for he has not paid over even the money which Mr. Mill admits may be converted into capital. Not the labourer, on any ground recognized by that author. Who, then, is the capitalist that supplies the capital eaten on Tuesday morning, as a "*pre-requisite*" of the work to be that day performed by the labourer? Accepting Mr. Mill's doctrine, it seems to be nobody. As a matter of fact, the money paid by the first employer was that employer's capital, until it had been used for his purposes and handed over to the workman. Then it became the latter's capital, until he exchanged it for the food of Tuesday,—which was capital in another form until it was eaten,—or, to be more minute, until it was digested.

† I should not deem it requisite to give such profuse evidence of the recognition of money as capital, but for my desire to supply Japanese students of industrial science with all the citations they may need, to convince themselves and others that money *is* considered capital, even by Mr. J. S. Mill, although capital is not necessarily money.

not blame the people for investing in railway loans, but rather the Government, for tempting them by placing such loans on the market. But how is the Government to know, any better than the simplest individual, when the predicted revival of industry is to make its appearance? Yet you think that the Government is not warranted in now proposing a good and advantageous investment, like that of the railway bonds, lest it interfere with other opportunities of investment, which may be indefinitely deferred.

And then the question arises,—What kind of enterprises would you approve and consider fit objects for the employment of Japanese capital? Railroads are barred out. So, also, on Mr. Mill's authority, are "machinery, permanent improvements of the land, and the like." He excludes, moreover, "manufactories, ships, canals, mines, and works of drainage or irrigation." It is difficult to say what he does not exclude. Everything, apparently, resulting in what he terms "fixed capital,"—not forgetting "all or most things known by the name of implements or tools." Now, if the "commercial and industrial enterprises" which you anticipate are of a different class from any of the above, and are of a nature even to forbid a workman from investing in "implements or tools," I fail to discern precisely how Japan is to be benefited by them. Trade alone,—the mere exchange of goods and commodities already on hand without continued productive operations,—is not likely to expand a nation's greatness or increase its power. A marked characteristic of "circulating capital," as described by Mill, is that it circulates itself out of existence. When it is all gone, what next? That is what we come to, if we lean upon Mr. Mill. But it is my conviction, Mr. Editor, that you place too much reliance on him, and make use of his arguments to an extent which circumstances do not warrant. To begin with, the whole purpose of his discourse on the proper employment of capital is not only different from, but is in one sense exactly the reverse of, that to which you seek to turn it, in your quotations. You assume that he is endeavouring to prove the impropriety of certain investments in poor countries. The fact is, that he is endeavouring to prove the propriety of those same investments in rich countries. That is the real burden of his theme. He is engaged in demonstrating that such investments are desirable and judicious in rich countries, and he casually mentions, as a wholly secondary consideration, that they *may be* undesirable in a poor country. He does not seem particularly sure about it; nor to care much, one way or the other. He simply admits that the rule he lays down for rich nations *may be* inapplicable to those which are poor. If any one doubts this, let him look at your first extract, beginning,—*"In a country where capital accumulates slowly,"* etc. It consists of fifty-five lines. Of these, forty-six are devoted to the proposition he wishes to enforce,—namely, the expediency of the investments in question in a wealthy State; and nine are surrendered to an acknowledgment that *perhaps* they are not suited to a nation of inferior resources. The forty-six lines have no bearing upon the situation of affairs in Japan; the nine lines concede the possible correctness—but do not affirm it—of a theory similar to that which you have adopted.

It does not seem to me, if I may venture to say so, that there is anything very tangible in Mr. Mill's testimony against the use of capital for permanent productive investments in Japan; but I will look for a moment at his reason for discouraging such a course in any nation. He says:—

In a country where capital accumulates slowly, the introduction of machinery, permanent improvement of land, and the like, *might be* for the time extremely injurious; since the capital so employed *might be* taken from the wages fund, the subsistence of the people and the employment of labour curtailed, and the gross annual produce of the country actually diminished.

And, again:—

If the sinking of capital in machinery and useful works proceeds at such a pace as to impair materially the funds for the maintenance of labour, it is incumbent on legislators to take measures for moderating its rapidity.

Observe the cautious methods of expression in these extracts. The measures referred to "*might be*" injurious, since the capital "*might be* taken from the wages fund." "*If* the sinking of capital" impairs the labour fund, then its rapidity should be moderated. Nothing could be more carefully guarded. And rightly so; for, as I have remarked, these statements are mere incidental acknowledgments of a possibility in poor countries, to which the author neither endeavours nor desires to direct the close attention of his readers. Moreover, it is important to remember that the whole theory of the "wages fund," as originally elaborated by Mr. Mill, twenty-five or thirty years ago, has been set aside by the majority of prominent economists, including Mr. Mill himself. Its first assailant was Mr. Longe. Its most effective was Mr. Thornton, by whose arguments Mr. Mill frankly declared himself to be convinced. Without stopping, however, to contend against a theory which its author abandoned, I may say that the danger you apprehend could not be proved to exist, even if the "wages fund" doctrine were accepted as fully established. Your assumption (without reference to Mr. Mill) is, I believe, that Japanese labourers will suffer for want of the money, or for want of their share of the money, which is about to be invested in the railway bonds. But we all know that the money is to be devoted, almost as soon as it is paid over, to a great enterprise in which the services of thousands of workmen will be required. I have already suggested that you do not specify the industrial operations which you see looming in the future; but if they are to be of the very limited number not prohibited by Mr. Mill in the passages you quote, they cannot possibly benefit the labourer in anything like the degree that the building of a railway will benefit him. In fact, whatever they may be, I fail to perceive how they can give more employment to, or contribute more directly to the maintenance of, working men. And if it comes to a question from which source labourers are likely to derive the greater and more immediate advantage;—the construction of a railway, to commence within a definite brief period, or the inauguration of some unknown and unnamed smaller undertakings, to begin nobody knows when,—I can conceive of but one reasonable answer.

It now remains to be considered whether the Government has done wisely, or the reverse, in relying upon a home loan, instead of borrowing from abroad. To a certain extent I have answered this inquiry (from my point of view) in the foregoing paragraphs; but it is desirable to examine it in direct opposition to the citations you draw from Mr. Mill. That eminent philosopher has much to say, in divers places, on the subject of domestic loans, and it is interesting (parenthetically), to note his candid avowal, in one part of his work, that a person who buys, *with money*, Government securities for the purpose of assisting in the construction of a railway, lends his *capital* for a productive employment. The most forcible set of utterances you have reproduced, and those to which you look,—I presume I may say,—for the most substantial support, are the following, gathered, though not quite consecutively, from his chapter upon national debt:—

If the capital taken in loans is abstracted from funds either engaged in production, or destined to be employed in it, their diversion from that purpose is equivalent to taking the amount from the wages of the labouring classes. The system of public loans, in such circumstances, may be pronounced the very worst which, in the present state of civilization, is still included in the catalogue of financial expedients. There are, however, other circumstances in which loans are not chargeable with these pernicious consequences: namely, first, when what is borrowed is foreign capital, the overflows of the general accumulation of the world; or, etc.

It should first be pointed out that this extract does not, like others which you have chosen, refer especially to poor countries, but to all countries,—an illustration from English history being given in connection with it; and next, that it deals with loans intended *not* for productive and industrial development, but loans for the emergencies of war

or other wasteful requirements. It amounts simply to this: that when the Government of any nation, great or small, is in want of money for *unproductive* purposes, it should choose some other method of obtaining it than by a public loan. The proposition has no bearing upon money, or capital, needed for *productive* purposes. In other words, it has no bearing upon the transaction we are contemplating here in Japan. Instead of being used in "defraying the expenses of a war," or in any unfruitful operation, the sums subscribed for railway bonds will be devoted to a work of great public utility, and, in a large degree, will be disbursed in wages to labourers. You have yourself indicated that "Mill is here speaking of loans for unproductive purposes;" but I am surprised to see, appended to the acknowledgment of that fact, your remark that "even in that case he still prefers the introduction of foreign capital," etc. "*Even in that case!*" Why, what other case is there? That is the only case under discussion. Yet you would have it appear that there is no question about his preference for foreign capital when productive enterprises are concerned, and that *even* for unproductive enterprises his preference is the same. The truth is, Mr. Editor, that he is speaking of nothing else but unproductive undertakings. He has not a word to say, regarding the others. From beginning to end, his discourse is about expenditures incurred for war, or similar profitless operations. If the word "*even*" is to be properly used, it must be in this way:—Mill objects to domestic loans for unproductive purposes, but *even* for these purposes, he believes that under some circumstances, "the sum wanted may be obtained by loan, without detriment to the labourers or derangement of the national industry, and even perhaps with advantage to both," etc. *That* he really does say; but he never says anything remotely hinting at an objection to internal loans for productive objects.

It is unnecessary for me to prolong the examination of an argument which, obviously, was never intended to embrace such measures as those just instituted by the Japanese Government. But I have no intention of admitting that, even if Mr. Mill and all of his school had advocated foreign loans in the most emphatic and unmistakable terms, it would shake my conviction in the slightest degree. I regard it as more or less of an evil that strangers should have any opportunity of subscribing to a loan which the people of a country are themselves able to take up. In a case like the present, the outside investments are not likely to be extensive, and may therefore be no more injurious than those of Europeans were to the United States at the time of the Southern rebellion. But, opulent as America is, it did not enchant her citizens to see the annual payments of interest go abroad, after the war, nor to know that money lent to us when gold was at an immense premium, paid back and sent away, perhaps twice over, as the currency gradually returned to the normal rate. All bonds (with their interest) held by Americans were paid *at home*. Mr. Mill himself recognises the difference, as a matter of national gain or loss, between interest paid "when the creditors are members of the same community," and when they are not. For my part, I must adhere to the statement that Japan, five or ten years hence, in possession of her railway *plus* the capital required for constructing it, will be richer than if she had only the railway without the capital,—which would be the case if the amount were returned to lenders in Europe. I desire to remind you that on my side of the argument there is nothing supposititious. It is all straightforward fact. The railway *is to be* built with money voluntarily supplied by the Japanese; and the money supplied by them, with its interest, *is to be* paid back to them. But, as you put it, "the money expended is withdrawn from the available capital of the country where, *by hypothesis*, it is wanted, and where its absence *may be* seriously injurious,"—and so following, along a line of conditional and

mutually dependent assumptions. Yet you dispose of my remark, that "we have, when the work is completed, a new railway in Japan and also the twenty millions required to construct it,"—as simple and unadorned a truth as that there is water in Yedo Bay, or that two and two make four,—by averring that "this statement is most misleading." I do not so regard it, and, which is more to the purpose, I cannot believe that the rulers or the people of Japan would so regard it. Neither in the plain aspect of the affair, considered by itself alone, nor in the various theories and arguments drawn from distant sources and grouped about it, can I discover anything to awaken a doubt as to the wisdom and sound judgment of the policy to which the Government has adhered.

I apologize sincerely, Mr. Editor, for the demand I have made upon your space,—a demand which is not likely to be ever repeated, even if you permit me again to address you on economic topics since I have on this occasion departed, rather widely, from the strict boundaries of the question at issue, in order to "cleanse my bosom" with respect to a branch of the subject which has not before been fairly weighed, in this region, yet which, in my estimation, is entitled to careful consideration. I refer to the practice of applying to the exigencies of this country, the doctrines and arguments of Western writers who have no knowledge of or regard for Japanese affairs. One man, and one alone, since the days of Adam Smith, has studied economic science from an altitude which overlooks society in all its aspects and conditions, and has embodied his conclusions in general laws so harmonious and beautiful that it seems incredible to me how any mind capable of understanding them can conscientiously reject them. But Mr. Mill, like the majority of English economists, discusses his theme almost exclusively with a view to English interests, and without the least regard to such peculiar phenomena as are, for the present, inseparable from Japanese development and progress. Moreover, these foreign authors, with hardly an exception, fall into the habit of using words and expressions which obscure their meaning to all readers, and must render them well-nigh unintelligible to the Japanese. Each new expounder of "political economy" (so called) manufactures a set of fresh definitions and phrases, often antagonistic to all that have preceded them, and uses them as if they had been formally stamped with universal acceptance. Hence, the unaccustomed explorer is apt to find himself floundering in the midst of a jargon which is fully comprehensible to the inventor alone,—and perhaps not invariably to him. I will undertake to pick out half a dozen different, not to say conflicting, explanations, by standard authors, of such ordinary words as Wealth, Value, Trade, or Capital. How Mill has contradicted himself with respect to the last, is apparent in the extracts I have given. Whewell, in his lucid rules concerning technicalities, states that "when common words are appropriated as technical terms, their meaning and relations in common use should be retained, as far as can conveniently be done;" and that care must be taken that the words "are not ambiguous in their application." Political economists, however, are generally far too self-reliant to be guided by established laws of diction. For these reasons, not to speak of others scarcely less significant, I should, as a custom, oppose all attempts to appeal to the intelligence of Japanese readers by references to, or citations from, foreign works on this subject. Even Mr. Carey's masterly expositions may be rendered more effective by such modification as will adapt them to Japanese habits of thought and methods of reasoning.

Again offering my excuses for the extreme length of this communication,

I am, Sir, yours very truly,

PROTECTIONIST.

Tokio, March 6th, 1884.

[We have to apologise for the delay that has occurred in the publication of this letter. Its length obliged us to hold it over.—Ed. J. M.]

THE FRENCH AMATEURS' CHARITABLE PERFORMANCES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—I have the pleasure to enclose, for the information of the public, the accounts of the "Charity performances" given by French Amateurs in January and February last, and I take this opportunity of thanking, on their behalf, the local press, Mr. Hegt, Messrs. Lane, Crawford & Co., Mr. E. J. Moss, Mr. Culty, and all those who by reduced charges or gratuitous services contributed to the result obtained: *i.e.* a donation of \$364.31 to the local charities.

Yours truly,

D. FITZ-HENRY.

Yokohama, April 2nd, 1883.

MEMO. OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR TWO PERFORMANCES GIVEN BY FRENCH AMATEURS IN AID OF THE FUNDS OF THE YOKOHAMA GENERAL HOSPITAL AND OTHER CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

| | FIRST PERFORMANCE. | SECOND PERFORMANCE. |
|---|--------------------|---------------------|
| Receipts..... | \$362.00 | \$384.00 |
| Rent of Theatre, &c..... | \$33.02 | \$50.00 |
| Painter, Carpenter, Coolies, Scenery and Stage accessories..... | 76.91 | 39.95 |
| Costumes, wigs, &c..... | 37.55 | 15.07 |
| Printing, copying parts, &c..... | 14.93 | 15.00 |
| Piano hire..... | 15.00 | |
| Gatemen and Sundries..... | 21.50 | 24.15 |
| Special train..... | | 38.01 |
| | 198.91 | 182.78 |
| | \$163.09 | \$201.22 |

Total \$364.31 distributed as follows:

| | |
|--|----------|
| Yokohama General Hospital..... | \$230.17 |
| Société Française de Secours..... | 67.07 |
| Amateur Orchestra (for Charitable purposes)..... | 67.07 |
| | \$364.31 |

KRUPP V. ARMSTRONG GUNS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—We have to trouble you again in reference to the Krupp-Armstrong question, and to request that you will inform your readers that as yet no further correspondence on the subject has appeared in the home papers, at least so far as we are aware, and certainly not in the *Engineering*, to which we are subscribers.

Should any reply to Mr. Krupp's letter be made by "Artillerist" we shall be happy to forward it to you.

We are, Sir, Yours, faithfully,

TAKATA & Co.,

Agents for FRED. KRUPP.

Tokio, 28th March, 1884.

FIFTH LECTURE AT THE MEIJI KUAIDO.

The fifth lecture of the free series at the Meiji Kuaido, Tokio, was delivered, on the 22nd ultimo, by the Rev. Dr. Verbeck to an audience of about twelve hundred persons. The subject was Pantheism and Christianity, and in comparing the two creeds, the speaker necessarily touched the susceptibilities of his hearers somewhat roughly. He was nevertheless listened to with quiet attention, the rare exclamations of dissent his remarks elicited being confined to a few students, who were more disposed to be clamorous than reflecting. Dr. Verbeck commenced with a brief historical introduction, outlining the salient features of Pantheism. He explained the etymological meaning of the word, and then proceeded to derive its significance, first from substance, which is infinite in time and space; secondly from two attributes, namely, mind—or thought—and matter—or extension,—and thirdly, from the accidents of substance, which he called "mode." These three are coeval and inseparable from eternity to eternity. Considered internally, they are God; considered externally, the Universe. God may be called the Soul of Nature, and Nature, according to Pantheists, the body of God. Without God, there were no Universe; without an Universe, there were no God. Thus, in this creed, God and the Universe are not two things; they are identical. From these premises many strange conclusions follow. If the Universe is God, then all separate parts and

beings in Nature are components of God. If Nature is God, and all natural objects parts of God, then all powers, faculties, and workings contained in them are, wholly or partially, powers, faculties and workings of God. In this category would be included even the song of the nightingale and the perfume of the plum-tree. Pursuing this train of thought, Dr. Verbeck showed to what unreasonable and illogical tenets the Pantheists are committed. They confound Cause with Effect. Without God, they say, there can be no Nature, which is true enough; but then follows the paradox, without Nature there can be no God. They confound, too, the Finite with the Infinite. For God's infinity, they hold, consists in all the finities in Nature, as though any number of finities could ever make an infinite. They confound Mind and Matter, since they teach that God, the living Soul of the Universe, is, at the same time, the Universe itself. Their doctrine, further, involves a virtual denial of the Personality or Individuality of God, since their God is the sum total, the aggregate, of "all things and beings." An aggregate of persons and individualities may be an ideal person—as a corporation, society, or body politic—but cannot possibly be a real person, to whom the thoughts and prayers of sentient beings can go out. Again, they ignore man's personality or individuality, because they regard him as only a brief moment of God; as a wave on the surface of the sea; as a leaf on a forest tree—notions which are inconsistent alike with facts, with consciousness, and with reason. A further examination of this phase of Pantheism, shows that it denies man's liberty, and reduces him to the category of brutes or machines. "Our activity," says Cousin, "is only a temporary manifestation of God's activity; all our acts are God's acts." Man, then, "does" not, but is "made to do." His very sins are not his own. They are the deeds of a power beyond his control. He ceases to be responsible for the indulgence of his evil passions. He loses his free will, and losing with it his liberty, has no longer duties to perform or obligations to fulfil. It is not for him to distinguish between good or evil; virtue and vice; praise or blame. He is simply the creature of necessity, without motive or inducement to be virtuous. The basis of morality, in short, is swept away. Following this line of argument, we come to the grotesque aspects of Pantheism. If every object or being in nature is a part of God, then all the mutual actions of life, whether conflicting or concordant, are interactions between different parts of God. When a man murders his fellow, one part of God is destroying another. When Napoleon was pitted against Wellington on the field of Waterloo, it was one part of God manœuvring against another. Thus all history becomes a chain of necessities, and man's life a chapter of uncontrollable impulses. The speaker then passed to a direct comparison of Pantheism with Christianity. He showed, first, the resemblances between the two creeds. Both teach the existence of God: neither is atheistic. Both recognise the oneness of God: neither is polytheistic. Both condemn idol-worship. In both, God is omnipresent and omniscient. Both recognise the grand unity of the universe. In the scriptures of both are to be found common expressions, or, at any rate, expressions acceptable to both. But if these similarities exist, the dissimilarities are more striking and radical. Thus the God of Pantheism is dependent on, and his existence conditioned by, the Universe and its existence; whereas, the God of Christianity is the great and free Creator of the Universe. Nature is in no sense the necessary outward manifestation of the Christian God's inner substance. Again, while the God of Pantheism must be affected by every change in the things and beings on which his existence depends, the God of Christianity is changeless and the same from everlasting to everlasting. Neither can the former be worshipped, venerated, loved like the latter; for though Nature

may be admired, she is incapable of awakening in the hearts of her beholders those feelings so well expressed in the Christian Scriptures, where it is said that God's pity for his children is as that of a father, and that he must be loved by them as a child loves its parent. Pantheism robs man of his individuality, his personal liberty: it makes him the mere creature of impulses which he cannot control. Christianity, on the contrary, gives him the position of a free agent; a being endowed with the power to choose between good and evil, between reward and punishment. In the Pantheistic creed there is no sin, either of omission or commission, because the impulse that prompts our deeds, being God-directed, cannot be erroneous. Christianity, on the contrary, like a true teacher, tells men plainly that they are not what they ought to be; that their sins, as well as the power to abstain from them, are their own, and that there is always before them a higher standard of holiness and purity. Thus Christianity is the religion of Progress and of Civilization. Its object is to purify the world and make man conform to God's will. It is the basis of all true Civilization. Pantheism destroys the distinction of mind and matter; and at the time of death destroys man's identity, if, indeed, it ever acknowledges that he has any. Like a wave of the sea, like a drop of dew, like a name written on the surface of a running stream, he disappears, and is extinguished. But according to the Christian creed, man, made in the image of God, does not die. His body, indeed, returns to the dust, but his spirit to the God that gave it. The glorious belief in an immortality of joy, is Christianity's gift to man, even as her doctrines teach him the way to attain it. The speaker concluded by telling his hearers an anecdote of some medical students who, listening to their teacher's lecture and hearing him explain minutely the symptoms of various diseases, began to be conscious that they themselves were suffering from ills they had not before appreciated. "Should there be any among my audience," said Dr. Verbeck, "who, like those students, feels, as he listens to what I have said, that all is not well with him; feels that he too is suffering from a malady hitherto unrecognised, then let me recommend him to have recourse to a medicine which knows no failure nor has any peer, Christianity."

YOKOHAMA CRICKET CLUB.

An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Cricket Club was held last evening at the Club Hotel, at which between thirty and forty members were present.

On the motion of Mr. GORDON, Mr. Barlow took the Chair, Mr. E. Flint Kilby, acting as secretary.

The CHAIRMAN said that this was an Extraordinary General Meeting, called by notice and under the rules, but he thought it really an extraordinary meeting, as since the Club had been first started twelve years ago there had never been occasion to call an extraordinary meeting. At the Annual Meeting the Committee had been elected in the usual way, but a short time after three of the committeemen resigned, leaving only two. Now, according to the rules, it took three to form a quorum, consequently the two left found themselves unable to act and therefore resigned. There being a deadlock, the late Secretary, not finding anyone to whom he could pass over the books, called the old committee together, and they came to the conclusion that the only thing to be done was to call this meeting. There was nothing in the rules to decide how the ballot should be taken, but it was customary that the first five should be elected, and that if any of them refused to serve that those next in point of numbers be elected. He wished to know if any member had any objection to the ballot proceeding in the usual manner.

No objection having been raised, the ballot was then taken, and the following gentlemen were elected to serve for the ensuing year, viz.:—B. Durant, Groom, Melhuish, Hamilton, and A. R. Robinson.

Mr. GROOM said that perhaps the members thought it was strange that he should accept office after refusing to serve on the previous committee, but the fact was that he had not the time to attend to the work, and he believed that this Committee was only a temporary one, as in a few days there would be another meeting to discuss the amalgamation scheme, and then he hoped the present Committee would hand the matter over to a general Committee.

After a vote of thanks to the Chairman, the meeting adjourned.

TRANSLATIONS FROM NATIVE JOURNALS.

FOREIGN INTERCOURSE OF JAPAN.

(Translated from the *Fiji Shimpō*.)

In like ratio with the progress of civilization do the relations between individuals of all classes become more frequent and more intimate. The true secret of such relations lies in the clear understanding of individual characteristics, for a considerable degree of intimacy is only possible when each knows and appreciates the condition of the other. A man met with for the first time cannot be made the confidant of one's pecuniary troubles; nor can a newly-hired servant be sent out to collect bills. A new acquaintance is not always unkind, nor is a new servant invariably untrustworthy; and yet it is a chief characteristic of human nature to be doubtful of anything with which it is not familiar, and, in an especial degree, to be reticent and shy with first acquaintances. And all this holds good in reference to international intercourse.

A true knowledge of each other is the key to international intimacy. A great sage* once declared, —over two thousand years ago—that a man should rather regret his ignorance of the condition of others than theirs of his own, and this apothegm is held in high esteem by slow-witted scholars and students. Such a saying, if consistently carried out, would give rise to very objectionable abuses. In the days long gone by, when as yet human affairs were in a state of torpid inactivity, men were quite content to live and die within the little circle of their daily life, a circle in which they played an important rôle; and so, whether they lived in seclusion and retirement or not, it had little or no effect on their national interests. But now that civilization is pressing to the front with giant strides, each moment is of importance, and ignorance of others is an inexcusable fault. The talented should endeavor to make their talents appreciated; the wise should use their wisdom for the public weal. In a word, men must strive to make themselves known before others chance to find them out. For, unfortunately many of the readers of foreign books of science in their translations only can never,—inexperienced and undeveloped as they are,—hope to make their names echo in the halls of Fame. The way to become famous is to strike out a new path for oneself, and not be content to follow in the tracks of others.

Since the opening of this country, Japan has been constantly adopting the civilization of the Occident, from steamers and telegraphic lines to such abstract matters as politics, literature, art, and science. In only twenty years time Japan has swept off all the dust of antiquity and antiquated fashions with the brisk broom of European civilization. Not one of our foreign imports but what has added to and increased our knowledge of foreign lands. The students of Western jurisprudence have seen that the love of justice is characteristic of the European; the disciples of moral philosophy have learned to appreciate the exactness of European logic; the students of mechanical science have been astounded at the marvellous adroitness of European mechanicians. The more we learn of Europe the dearer do her countries become to our hearts, and this feeling is the true key to the maintenance of intimate relations. But foreigners are far from knowing us as we know them; as they are not really acquainted with this people, they feel no desire to respect them. And hence the contemptuous disregard for Japan which is so often apparent. The actions of a man show the true bent of his mind. Aliens despise us and treat us with contempt. Still, it is not judicious to angrily decry this spirit, before we have learnt the reason of its existence. Foreigners are

arrogant, it is true, but their arrogance will not continue to all eternity; they despise us because they know little or nothing of us, and it is thus our imperative duty to make ourselves known to them. It is the experience of many of those who have visited foreign lands that most people outside of Japan confound the Japanese with the Chinese, and are even not familiar with the whereabouts of this country. This seems strange enough, but it is a fact, nevertheless. Japan is a small island in the East; and though the foreigners which visit these shores are not few, and many officials, students, and merchants of this country have visited western lands, these facts hardly do more than introduce the name of Japan to European nations. For if we count all our people together, their number is limited in comparison with the countless millions of foreigners, and their mixing with other aliens is but a drop of information in an ocean of ignorant indifference. Our intercourse with foreign lands, intimate as it may seem to the people of this country, is but a passing event of minor importance in the eyes of Western Powers. It is natural enough that they should know little or nothing of us, and we must, therefore, adopt some way in order to being ourselves prominently before them. We belong to the great comity of civilized nations, and so soon as Europe knows us she will not withhold her respect.

And yet, the tide of national advance in Japan is at low ebb. The active revival of Chinese scholarship and learning has been a cause of anxiety to not a few of our people. But we are utterly indifferent to it, for the very nature of true civilization negatives the existence of such doctrines in these enlightened days. Confucius divided the human family into two great classes:—superior men (*kun-shi*), and inferior men (*shō-gun*), the former comprising those who act according to the moral standard, the latter, those who live but for the sake of self-profit; and so the Chinese sage declared that acquaintance or intimate relations should not exist between the two classes. This injunction, as well as the distinction implied, is certain to be the cause of mischief, and history is not wanting in examples which amply prove the baneful results of an implicit belief in this absurd principle. But the Confucianists would be quite content were all our countrymen to speak and act as did Confucius and Mencius.

In these times of enlightenment, however, our people must enlarge the circle of their intercourse as far as possible; they must act for the benefit of the whole community, and, for the present, include themselves in the category of so-called "inferior men." Should foreign residence in the interior be, once for all, permitted,—and this event is certain to ensue in no long time—the "inferior men" of western lands would crowd into this small island:—now those of England, then those of France, and so forth. The "inferior men" of all nationalities will then be able to occupy land in the interior as they please. Is it possible in such a moment to refuse to hold communication with the "inferior men" of foreign lands and to hold ourselves aloof in a self-sufficient spirit? The Confucianist, however much he may detest these alien profit-seekers, cannot stem the mighty tidal-wave of civilization. We ought and must compete with these foreign "inferior men." In the course of a few years, the Confucian ideal of Japan will be brought into active communication with "inferior men," but we congratulate this country in advance upon such an event,—in the interest of true civilization.

So much for the falsity of Chinese doctrines. Yet one spot which they have printed on the heart of the Japanese people is left untouched. We refer to that spirit of polite conservatism which is an obstacle to the national progress. Should our people adhere to the old worn-out principle of national seclusion amidst the ever-increasing complexity of human affairs, the tide of civilization will sweep past us, never to be overtaken. The true ideal of civilization is forever unattainable until we know as we are known.

* Confucian Analects, Chap. XVI.—The Master said, "I will not be afflicted at men's not knowing me; I will be afflicted that I do not know men."

THE BALANCE OF JAPANESE TRADE WITH AMERICA.

(Translated from the *Fiji Shimpō*).

America is our neighbour for her westernmost coast is opposite to our eastern shores. The Pacific Ocean, vast as it is, can be crossed in half a month by steamers; and it may not be a vain hope that, as science progresses, the duration of the voyage between the two countries will be reduced to ten days, or even a week. Should the Panama Canal be completed in 1888, Japan's trade with America will receive an extraordinary impetus; and the never-ending clouds of smoke pouring from the funnels of countless steamers, added to the constant shadows of the huge white sails thrown ever and anon on the surface of this vast ocean, will add one more glorious feature to the panorama of sublunary civilization. The communication between the two nations is constantly increasing, as are our hopes for its future.

In reviewing the Japanese foreign trade of 1882, we see that the total exports amounted to 27,230,000 *yen*, America's share of which reached the respectable figure of 14,250,000 *yen*. It will thus be seen that six-tenths of the total exports from Japan are destined for the American market. Now silk is the most valuable item in our exports, yielding an annual revenue of 19,000,000 *yen*; and tea comes next, which brings in about 7,000,000 *yen* every year. These two articles contribute mainly towards the wealth and strength of this country. But America annually consumes 6,370,000 *yen* of our silk and 6,910,000 *yen* of our tea, and this fact alone more than establishes the vital importance of Japan's trade with America. The United States form a great and prosperous nation, and although their population does not exceed 50,000,000, the industrial activity of the inhabitants has brought the country into the first rank of the nations of the world; nor is it behind England in financial power; nor does it yield an inch to any European country in point of commerce. If the America of to-day be in so prosperous a condition, there can be no doubt but that, as time rolls on, her wealth and influence will increase with enormous rapidity, so that there is really no saying what an affluent and influential position she may hold at the end of the next two decades. The evidence of such rapid progress is as clear as can be. The export of silk to America is increasing year by year; the sole cause for apprehension being that the supply will fall short in future. As to tea, despite a lively demand for other articles, a decline is distinctly noticeable; yet the reason of this decline is not due to decreased consumption of the article, but rather to the poor quality manufactured in this country for the sake of a trifling temporary profit, and this defect of manufacture has produced an unfavourable impression upon American buyers. Should Japanese producers take proper care to encourage the excellence of this staple, and appeal to the taste of the buyers by treating them with the utmost fairness, it would be a by no means difficult task to increase the present demand for tea ten-fold. In a word, our general produce, outside of silk and tea, does not fall short in any particular of being in active demand in America. From the manufactured lacquer-ware, porcelain, paper, and *shoyu*, to the crude produce of copper, sulphur, and coal, there are unlimited stores of goods which will tend to enlarge Japan's future trade with America.

Turning to the import trade of Japan for the same year, we find that America's share of the whole, 29,160,000 *yen*, amounts only to 3,100,000, or about one-fifth of the goods exported from this country to the United States. And of this sum, 2,320,000 *yen* represents the value of the kerosene we import; so that we can justly state that our import trade with America consists of kerosene and nothing else. This does not augur well, at all events. Japan has a population of say 37,000,000,

who are not so very idle as to waste the night in sleep alone, and we may rest assured that the demand for kerosene will, as a matter of course, increase many fold. But, when we take the future into consideration, and remember that the oil-lamp is already superseded by gas, and that gas itself is threatened with the electric light, we require something more stable on which to place our hopes. Except, perhaps, in the remotest villages, all of the larger towns will soon be illuminated by gas or electricity. Progress demands that the customs of olden time should fade away before the inventions of the present, and this regeneration is rapidly going on in Japan. Therefore, as we earnestly desire to see the trade between Japan and America materially increased, we do not wish our American import trade to be restricted to kerosene, but we sincerely hope that the description and nature of the imports will be enlarged, so that there will be a practical equilibrium of trade between the two countries. In good truth, our demand for butter, condensed milk, salted meats, leather, hides, rope, wheat-flour, and timber—the principal articles of American agricultural export, as well as for all kinds of machinery, iron-ware, watches, and rifles, will be rapidly and greatly increased in the course of the next few years; but what we expect from the American people is not limited to these miscellaneous imports. Should they pay greater attention to the wants of this country and export wools, yarns, cotton-goods, and others of like description, it would not be a difficult matter for them to supply the demands of our thirty-seven million inhabitants. If the people of the United States have the least intention to increase their trade with this country, they will certainly export their produce to Japan in greater quantities and of better and more universally useful quality, and not be content with sending us but 3,000,000 *yen* of miscellaneous articles in return for the 14,000,000 *yen* which they import from Japan.

TRADE IN KOREA.

(Translated from the *Bukka Shimpō*.)

The Consular Trade Report from Ginsen, Korea, as published in a recent number of the *Kwampo*, says:—"The total amount of exports from this port for November, 1883, was 16,342.40 *yen*; of imports, 168,600.38 *yen*, giving an excess of 152,257.98 *yen* over the exports. As trade in this country is rarely carried on in specie, but is mostly the outcome of barter in exports and imports, the above-mentioned amount of exports represents the actual transactions done in imported goods, while other goods worth 152,257.98 *yen* remained unsold, and were kept over till December. The exports for the month of December reached 36,673.20 *yen*, as against imports amounting to 48,369.29 *yen*, showing again an excess of the latter over the former of 11,696 *yen*, which sum, added to that of the preceeding month gives a total of 163,155.06 *yen*. And this total represents the value of the goods accumulated at the end of December, 1883. The depressed condition of trade at this port needs no further explanation." The same report says further:—"Copper, lead, and shirtings, the most important articles in the import trade, have already given signs of a future decline; shirtings, in especial, being no longer in the hands of our merchants. The import of copper is destined to fall off rapidly, as this metal has only been used in minting the new coins. But should the trade in copper and lead cease, our merchants would be utterly without employment. Should this unpleasant state of affairs come about, our merchants would fail to reap any profit whatever, despite the fact that we were the first in starting the foreign trade of Korea. It is most important that some means should at once be devised, whereby our merchants may be enabled to maintain their trade with the Koreans in perpetuity. And the maintenance of trade with Korea cannot

be effected otherwise than by giving the initiative to a demand for articles other than copper, lead, and shirtings."

Although the above remarks are taken from the important parts of the Consular Report on the trade of Ginsen alone, they enable us to gain a fair idea of the state of trade not merely in Ginsen or Pusan, but in all the Korean ports. We stated, some time ago, that our trade with Korea would not yield us great profits commercially, but would be rather of a diplomatic value. Last year, trade depression was not restricted to Korea, but was felt by the whole world; but where barter takes the place of specie payments, where commodities of other than one or two kinds never find a market, where commerce is in a state of steady decline, where the settlers are like shipwrecked people cast away upon some lonely island, anxiously awaiting the sight of some passing vessel to rescue them,—it needs no lively imagination to picture their sufferings. Were there the golden hope of a future improvement in commerce, they might endure the present misery without murmuring; but the stagnant trade is on the verge of total cessation, and there is no hope of future amelioration. It is, of course, in these days most important to assist our Korean trade, and we must, to that end, awaken a demand for other goods outside of copper, lead, and shirtings. But how can this be effected? Certainly not by folding our hands and bewailing the stagnation of commerce. A radical change in the customs, requirements, and present commercial system of the Koreans is absolutely indispensable. To make our meaning clearer, we shall refer to the Korean trade of 1882. The total imports of the two ports of Pusan and Ginsen amounted, in that year, to 1,773,379 *yen*; 1,587,682 *yen* being the value of the goods imported from European and other foreign countries, the remaining 185,697 *yen* being the whole value of the Japanese imports. This was due solely to the reason of the demand in Korea being for articles other than those produced in this country. The total exports were 1,202,475 *yen*. But then these sums were obtained simply because our merchants were then the sole licensed vendors of foreign goods. Now that English, American, and other foreign firms are themselves opening establishments in the interior, our agencies yield us no profit whatever. And so our merchants will have to relinquish all their former ideas and go to work on a totally different plan.

This new plan will be a very keystone to the maintenance of our Korean trade, and may, perchance, alter the customs and fancies of the Koreans, thereby opening up a new channel for the export of our produce. And yet this is by no means an easy task. Korea exports her own productions not for the sake of the development of her national industries, but in order to defray the cost of the imported goods she consumes. Our object may, therefore, be obtainable only when Korea has grown eager to develop her national resources. Just at present, there is nothing to justify us in looking for any over great amount of gold-dust, cereals, hides, and the like. We cannot, in sober truth, discover anything in Korean trade which promises to yield our merchants a golden harvest. It remains to be seen how England, America, and China will proceed with regard to their trade with Korea.

The Imperial Household Department has ordered a large number of porcelain flower-vases, of excellent workmanship, from Kiyoto. These vases will be presented to foreign dignitaries on occasions of their having an audience with H.I.M. the Mikado. The same Department is making arrangements for a great exhibition of fencing, to which all the swordsmen in the country will be invited. H.I.M. the Mikado will be present.

More than 400 cases of compromise were filed at the Yokohama *Saibansho* on the last day of March.—*Mainichi Shimbun*.

IN THE MINISTERIAL COURT OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
IN JAPAN.

Before the Honorable JOHN A. BINGHAM, Envoy
Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary.

THURSDAY, 3rd April, 1884.

THOMAS B. VAN BUREN V. THOMAS H. TRIPLER.
SLANDER.—\$5,000 DAMAGES.

General Van Buren conducted his own case.

Mr. Weiller appeared for the defendant.

The plaintiff waived his right to open the case, to save time, and agreed that the Counsel for the defendant should plead first and he should reply to their arguments. The evidence taken at the last session was then read and filed on the record of the Court. The letter from defendant to the Department of State was placed on the file, not as evidence, but as part of the record of the Court.

The Court remarked that it had allowed the letter to be filed, but it could not be received as evidence for the reasons previously stated. It appeared to have been sent in good faith to the Department of State and therefore was privileged. It had been referred to a subordinate officer to see whether anything ought to be done about it, this was a matter for the Department of State. His Honour considered the letter in the first place privileged, in the second irrelevant, in the third case if it were admissible it would be evidence in chief, and therefore could not be admitted as the case was closed, and lastly it could only be admitted by way of rebuttal or impeachment. The objection was therefore sustained, and the plaintiff's exception noted.

Mr. Weiller, for the defendant, said that no doubt the Court would agree with him that before it decided the case there were four points to be considered. First, were the words alleged in the petition uttered by the defendant of and concerning the plaintiff. Secondly, if the said words were uttered by the defendant, were they slanderous and had they injured the plaintiff in his office. Thirdly, was the utterance if made privileged, and fourthly was the utterance if made justifiable. As to the first point, he would briefly call the attention of the Court to the discrepancies in the evidence. Mr. Pritchard had undoubtedly given conscientious testimony, but the said evidence, besides being contradicted by the defendant, was not corroborated by the plaintiff's other witnesses. Mr. Pritchard had said that Messrs. Beato and Walker, besides numerous others, who were in or had gone through the hall overheard it. Mr. Walker did not remember hearing the defendant speaking of the plaintiff between the hours of 5 and 7 when Mr. Pritchard said the conversation took place, but he heard a similar conversation after dinner about 9 o'clock. Mr. Beato could not remember the defendant saying all that Mr. Pritchard said, and further he said the conversation took place on the opposite side of the hall. The defendant had most positively denied using the words alleged. It was in evidence that at the election most of the members of the Club were excited and that the candidates for Presidency were more or less abused. His Honour knew that under such circumstances all the items of a conversation could not be correctly remembered. Mr. Pritchard had drawn one inference as to what Government was meant, might be not have drawn another inference as to whether the word swindled was used, at any rate it was admitted that considerable excitement prevailed. There was a distinct difference between the main witness for the plaintiff and that for the defendant, and as neither had been impeached each was of equal value, and the term swindler as stated by Mr. Pritchard had not been corroborated. Although Mr. Rossettsu said that the defendant had used the expression "swindle on the Government," it was a privileged communication, he being in the defendant's employ and he (the

counsel) thought that evidence ought to be struck out. The question was, if the words already quoted were uttered, did they amount to a slander? To justify a verdict for the plaintiff, it must appear that such act was imputed to the defendant, and that such an act was of a criminal and indictable nature, and cited Folkard's Starkie on Law of Libel, page 120. Even if the defendant had used the words alleged, these words were connected with a certain line of facts. It might be unlawful for the plaintiff to buy the buildings, but it was not a criminal offence, and therefore the words if used could not be slanderous. He might call a man a thief, and say that he had stolen something, but if the article that was stolen was not subject to larceny it would not be a slander. As to the third point, that of privilege, the counsel insisted that what passed between Mr. Pritchard and defendant was privileged as a communication from one member of the Club to another. Defendant had only made the statement after Mr. Pritchard had remonstrated with him, saying that he was doing himself an injury in trying to persuade members not to vote for General Van Buren, and was making himself inimical. It was then that the defendant in a private and privileged communication said that the plaintiff had wrongfully purchased the buildings, and he (the counsel) held that he had a perfect right to use any knowledge he had to defeat the plaintiff. Again, it was a privileged communication as between one American citizen and another, and he had yet to learn that any officer in the United States service was so high, so great, and so almighty, that his actions were not open to be criticized by any American citizen, no matter how poor or lowly he might be. Mr. Weiller cited the following authorities on privileged communications:—Bouvier's vol. II., page 375, and Starkie on Libel and Slander, page 526, which read: "A privileged communication was one made *bona fide* upon any subject matter in which the party communicating has an interest, or in reference to which he has a duty. If made to a person having a corresponding interest or duty, although it contain criminating matter, without this privilege, it would be slanderous." The counsel also quoted Cooley on Torts, page 210. Continuing, he said that the defendant had received certain information as to the purchase of the buildings by the plaintiff in his capacity as Consul General. He had also received information that the price paid for them was small and the rent charged excessive. He understood that the plaintiff stood in the position of an agent of the United States Government and therefore any benefit that might accrue ought to go to the Government. Whether the inference he drew was right or wrong did not matter, he had a right to state what he had heard. He had written the letter to the Department of State and said he had done so, and had a perfect right to comment upon what he had written. As to the fourth point, namely, justification, it was shown that before the defendant made any utterance he had taken care to find out what he supposed were the facts. That information was used in his letter, and upon it he did some of the things alleged by plaintiff. The counsel alluded to the plaintiff's strange conduct in saying he had nothing to conceal, but when the documents were called for he objected to produce them as "it would take a train of cars to bring them up to Tokyo." It was only when ordered by the Court that he had produced them. The plaintiff had not missed a point in the case, and had laid his finger on every weak spot of the defence. He had tried in every way to evade handing the documents in. He said the Japanese Government would not like it known what price they had sold the buildings for, although his own witness said that he had permission from the Kencho to tell all about the transfer, and the ex-Governor of Kanagawa had written to say that the whole of the documents referring to the transaction would be found in the Kencho archives. Lastly he said that the United States Government might not like

it known what rent they paid for the buildings, although the expenses of the Consulates were open to any American citizen to examine at the Department of State in Washington. There was a rule of law that, if any material evidence be suppressed, it was *suppressio veri, expressio falsi*, that was to say that the suppression amounted to a falsehood. The letter to the Department of State from plaintiff was not disingenuous. It did not explain to the Department that the lot was in a part of Yokohama that no American citizen was allowed to hold private property in. It also did not mention the price to be paid for the buildings. In the first communication the price mentioned was \$5,000 or \$6,000 for the jail alone, and that was only one sixth of the area. Had the Department known that the purchase price amounted to little more than one year's rent, it might have changed its mind. This knowledge coming to the ears of a third party, what inference might he not draw? Counsel cited Starkie on Slander, page 42:—"In the next place it seems to be clear that a party who acquires an advantage by concealing the truth, which he could not have attained to had he divulged it, is so far guilty of fraud in the concealment that he cannot upon any principle, claim a right to acquire that benefit and therefore cannot complain that he is injured by a publication of the truth." There was one thing he (counsel) had tried to understand and failed. That was how the plaintiff divided himself between being Consul-General and a private citizen. The title deeds were drawn as Consul General, the ground rent notices were sent to the Consul General, and the plaintiff signed the cheque as a private citizen. There were only a few more words he had to say in the matter, if the Court should find that the defendant had a plausible reason to believe what he had stated was true, the Court could not give the case against him; it was not necessary for the defendant to prove the truth of the statements. In confirmation of which he quoted the *Albany Law Journal*, vol. 28, page 433. Counsel claimed that defendant had offered sufficient proof to show that he was justified in holding the opinion that plaintiff's action had been wrong and unlawful, and even if he had drawn a false inference from the facts within his knowledge, it was done *bona fide* and without malice, and therefore he had not perpetrated a slander on the plaintiff.

Mr. Litchfield said that, after the exhaustive speech of Mr. Weiller, he had only a few remarks to make. The question arose as to whether the defendant was legally liable or not for damages. He did not propose to enquire whether the words were uttered or not, but what was the defendants legal liability if they were so uttered. The plaintiff had claimed \$5,000, and no evidence had been produced to show that he had suffered anything. Of course it was well-known that juries have given heavy damages to soothe the very highly sensitive feelings of some people, but he thought it had never been done in the case of a high official; a man in the position of the plaintiff could afford to despise comments. Some evidence must be produced to show that damage had been sustained; no such evidence had been produced. Even if the Court ruled that the defendant was not justified, the damages must be merely nominal. As to the charge itself, the words uttered by a person, in order to render the person liable, must be false and maliciously uttered, the person knowing them to be false and the occasion not justifying them. There was no end to the comments that might be made about the actions of a public officer. On the occasion in question there was an election for the President of the Club and he brought up this point to show that if the words were uttered it was on a justifiable occasion, and they were free from malice. Mr. Pritchard and Dr. Tripler had a conversation on the 31st December last, and, some remarks being made about the election, Mr. Pritchard asked the defendant why he worked against the General, having at previous elections worked for him. He

also said that the defendant was doing himself no good. Dr. Tripler then stated his reasons, which were the words complained of. They were therefore uttered on a justifiable occasion as comments upon a public man to a person interested in the subject matter of the conversation. The case was a similar to a character given to a servant, which although it might be injurious to him, had been held to be justifiable. It had been held, and rightly so, that a man should be allowed to speak his mind freely in the interests of society. That being so it now remained to consider the bearing of the words used. The defendant had taken pains to get the best information in his power, he was entitled to procure that information, if he thought that it would interest him as was the case in connection with the acts of a public servant. If defendant made a wrong deduction he was not responsible, and should not be made to suffer either in pocket or otherwise. Drawing a false impression was not sufficient to criminate a man; it must be false and malicious. No man would seriously say that using the words "swindling the Government" as a phrase was a criminal offence. It would be as bad as saying that a man stole an umbrella or that he exchanged a dude-like silk for a gamp. Shortly before the words were supposed to have been uttered, the phrase "who stole the library" was quite common, and if there had been a sufficiently unscrupulous lawyer in Yokohama at the time there might have been sufficient actions for slander to keep all the Courts fully employed from that time till the country was thrown open, if such an event ever occurred. He referred the Court to Starkie on Slander, page 276, and 1st Law Report, Queen's Bench, page 699, to show that comments might be made upon anyone holding a public office on any fitting occasion, and especially when made to a person interested in the matters in hand. Upon these grounds he argued that the comments were justifiable. There had been no evidence of malice in fact, and he asked the Court to dismiss the petition with costs.

Plaintiff, in addressing the Court, said that he had been very strongly inclined to submit the case to his Honour without a word, and would have done so had the defendant's counsel done likewise. He was so convinced that the complaint had been proved and the defence had lamentably failed, that he was at a loss as to what point to address himself. He would, however, proceed to break down the flimsy barricade and tear aside the curtain from behind which they had fired their shots. He thought that his Honour in common with all who had read the case could not have failed to observe the pitiable exhibition that the defendant had made of himself in this matter. They had been old friends and the defendant had been a constant guest at his table. They had a trifling dispute which had been submitted to arbitration and settled. From that moment defendant became his active and malignant foe. He heard of him all over Yokohama abusing him and using outrageous threats and accusations. After a time, finding that he (the plaintiff) did not take any notice, he became emboldened, and, losing all discretion, employed an attorney to enquire into his private affairs. From a common defamer he blazed all at once into a flaming patriot, and boldly charged the Consul General of his own country with a violation of law and with swindling the Government. To use his own choice language, he boasted before admiring crowds that he would smash him into a thousand pieces. All this went swimmingly, and the blazing patriot was all right till the strong arm of the law seized him by the throat. Then he whined out that he did not say all these naughty things, but only wrote a nice letter. He swore in the Court that he did not make the statements, or any one of them, and tries to justify himself. Then, as the minstrels observed, the "trouble begins." Then an amusing scene occurred, almost without parallel.

Defendant's Counsel both made frantic endeavours to draft a plea, however, the effort was not successful and an adjournment had to be made.

At this point the plaintiff was interrupted by the barking of a dog in the Court. His Honour ruled the dog out of order, and it was ejected. The plaintiff remarked that he was unaware that he had three counsel against him.

Plaintiff, resuming, said that at the next meeting the defendants counsel came in triumphant with an answer in which he (the defendant) said he did not make any of those statements, and in the next paragraph said he had uttered most of them and could justify them. He respectfully wished to say that the law did not allow oaths to be trifled with in that manner. Perjury in a document was just as foul as when given from the witness-box. The plaintiff wished to remind His Honour of the appearance of the defendant whilst on the stand. A more forgetful, a more wandering, or a more completely demoralized witness he had never seen in his life. He remembered nothing, and when his own answer was placed in his hands it became as unmeaning as Sanscrit. When asked did he make the statements in the answer, he asked what statements, and the Court had to ask him could he not read, and called him to order. This blazing patriot was a very different man when in the United States Court to what he was in the atmosphere of the Y.U. Club. Here this modern Cicero stood a trembling and convicted slanderer. Referring to the issues, the plaintiff said that the defendant was charged with uttering certain false and malicious statements concerning the plaintiff, viz.:—that the Consul-General had improperly purchased certain buildings and swindled the United States Government. That this statement had been made before many people, some of them strangers, was proved beyond doubt by Mr. Pritchard's evidence who gave the exact language as he had previously detailed it to him. The second witness, Mr. Beato, did not give the exact words, but added that the defendant had, two months before, said that plaintiff had swindled the Government. Mr. Rossettsu, a witness for the defendant, also said that he had used the words "swindle on the Government." The defendant pleaded that these words were privileged; he would remark that he had learnt more about privilege during this case than he had ever known before. Mr. Rossettsu said he was employed by Mr. Weiller, and when the defendant thanked him for his information he said he did not know that he had been getting it for him. The defence set up was that he did say that the plaintiff had unlawfully made the purchase, and that it was true. Now the defendant had not proved anything about it. There was not a word in the proceedings to show that it was unlawful. The only evidence on the subject of the purchase was what the Court had compelled him to bring into Court and hand to the defendant. He renewed his contention that this evidence was improper, and ought to be struck out of the record. The gravamen of the charge was that he had purchased the buildings as an official and had deceived both the Japanese authorities and the United States Government. It would have been a swindle had he made the slightest attempt to tamper with the rights of his office. But it had been proved by the defendant's own witness, Mr. Osborne, that it was conveyed to him as an individual and that it was a private transaction and the price paid was the price asked. He submitted that that should have ended the evidence, and the defendant should have been estopped from producing evidence to the contrary. The Court had ordered him, on the motion of the defendant, to produce his private papers about his private business, and he thought it was a piece of impertinence on the part of the defendant. Moreover, he had been obliged to state the price that he had paid for the buildings, and he did see how that affected the case.

The Court said it had explained this point before. The United States Government were the original lessees, and it went in mitigation of damages. Plaintiff remarked that he did not see how it could help them. As to the letter from defendant to the Department of State, an objection had been raised by the defendant's counsel to its being put in, on the ground that the case was closed and that it was too late. This was a matter in the discretion of the Court and the Court, had ruled adversely to him. He had endeavoured to prove to the Court that all he could prove in chief was simply the speaking of the words, and he could not at that time bring the letter in. It was material for the Court to know what statements the Department of State were replying to. As to the question of privilege, he would like to know to whom it applied; if to the defendant, he submitted that he had repeatedly waived it. In the first place the defendant had made no objection on those grounds to its introduction.

Secondly he waived it by putting the most of it into his first answer; and thirdly he had entirely waived it when he put in the letter from the defendant to the Department. If it were privileged by the Government, the privilege was violated by the defendant. He was compelled to produce the Department's correspondence, and he contended that if one part of the correspondence was introduced they were bound to admit the other. He then quoted Greenleaf, vol. 1., sec. 201:—"Where one party produces the letter of another, purporting to be in reply to a previous letter from himself, he is bound to call for and put in the letter to which it was an answer as part of his own evidence." He argued that no one letter could be produced and the others left out. It was not within legal rights that one man could bring in a letter and the other not be allowed to put in the reply. His papers had been brought in and had established the fact that he had the temerity to purchase some buildings in Yokohama without the permission of T. H. Tripler, M.D., and that after he had purchased them he had rented them without the permission of T. H. Tripler, M.D. Who this gentleman was the Court had not allowed him to show out of his own mouth. But sufficient had been shown to establish the fact that his opinion on any subject could not be of much use. "He who touches pitch," etc. He was free to confess that where they were both known, the defendant could do him no damage, but when he spoke before strangers and threatened to publish them at home he appealed to the laws of his country. The plaintiff cited from Kent as follows:—"However contemptible the slanderer, however illiterate, mendacious, ignorant, and revengeful, the just and righteous law says the slandered shall be protected." If the evidence did not establish the fact of utterance, no comment of his would do so. Two witnesses for the plaintiff and one for the defendant had given their evidence. As to Mr. Walker's want of memory, he could only say that he remembered a great deal more before he came into Court. As to the contention of the defendant that to make a case actionable a criminal offence must have been imputed, he cited Folkard's Starkie, pages 112 and 119; also 2 Kent, page 16. Now came the question of the defendant claiming privilege because the words were uttered in the Club on the eve of an election. He failed to see how the defendant could so plead as he had thereby not only tried to prejudice him in his office, but had also tried to injure him socially. He was as mild as a lamb on the stand, not the belligerent foe. He said he only wanted to defeat the plaintiff, as he was inimical to making it a member's club. That was his only reason. Where did the privilege come in to make use of the words he did. He contended that it amounted to a criminal offence, but whether or not he had proved that the words were actionable, in support of which he quoted Folkard's Starkie page 293. As to malice, the authorities stated that it was inferable where the words themselves were actionable. The learned counsel for the defendant had dwelt at some length on the point that the defendant had heard these statements and drew certain inferences for which he was not responsible. When a man repeated something that he had heard, and believed it true, it was different to when he employed another to ferret out matters that proved to be wrong. Could anybody believe the defendant was not influenced by malice. He had never spoken to the plaintiff about the matter: if he had he would have been told all about it. It was all above board. Plaintiff had told it to everybody. His friend Mr. Weiller knew all about it. He had told everyone who had come to the Consulate. The defendant had failed to show that there had been any impropriety in his actions. There had been no law violated. The Department of State had sanctioned the transaction and put its seal on it. It was a matter solely between the Japanese Government and himself. As to the price, it did not matter if he paid five or five thousand dollars for it. If he had thought there was any impropriety in the transaction, he would as soon have handled a black snake. He did not think that there was any impropriety then, and he did not think so now. Regarding his paying the ground rent by a private cheque, he did so as he had before stated so as to simplify the vouchers. The Department was satisfied. He had not been injured very much by defendant's words, but the law said that a slanderer was not only liable for actual damage, but such damage as the judge or jury might see fit. He wished the defendant to know that there were some things a United States citizen might not do, and one was he could not take away a man's character in the way defendant had tried to do his.

Both parties having agreed that the Court should send copies of the Judgment to them without their going to Tokiyo, subject to exceptions the case concluded, His Honour remarking that he would deliver Judgment in due course.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

[REUTER "SPECIAL" TO "JAPAN MAIL."]

London, March 30th.

DEATH OF A ROYAL DUKE.

The Duke of Albany died yesterday at Cannes. It is believed that His Royal Highness died of apoplexy.

London, April 1st.

FUNERAL OF THE DUKE OF ALBANY.

The funeral service, which is arranged for Saturday, will take place in St. George's Chapel.

London, April 2nd.

THE SUEZ CANAL.

The Pilotage Dues, hitherto paid by all vessels passing through the Suez Canal, have been abolished.

[FROM THE "NORTH CHINA DAILY NEWS."]

(THROUGH CHINESE SOURCE*).

Haiphong, 20th March, 4 p.m.

On the 12th instant, the French commenced their attack on Bacninh, whereupon Liu Jung-fu, the Black Flag Chief, carrying with him all his Black Flag and Chinese soldiers, evacuated the place and fled to Chên-nan Kuan. The French Commander, suspecting that there might be a trap set for his troops, kept them at a considerable distance from the Citadel and sent a few scouts on ahead to reconnoitre. These men, on their return, reported that there were large supplies of arms and provisions, whereupon the Commander appointed a party to go into the city and bring them out.

On the 15th, at 9 p.m., Liu Jung-fu attacked the French on two flanks, when each Black Flag soldier proved himself the equal of ten Frenchmen, and a heavy slaughter of the invaders was the result, in which the leader of the French was killed.

London, 24th March.

HUNTINGDON ELECTION.

Sir Robert Peel, the Conservative Candidate, has been elected by a narrow majority as Member for Huntingdon.

THE POPE LEAVING ROME.

The Cardinals will consider the expediency of the Pope leaving Rome.

TIME TABLES.

YOKOHAMA-TOKIO RAILWAY.

The Trains LEAVE YOKOHAMA Station at 6.45, 8.00, 8.50,* 9.45, and 11.00 a.m., and 12.15, 1.30, 2.45, 4.00, 4.45,* 6.00, 7.15, 8.30, 9.45, and 11.00† p.m.

The Trains LEAVE TOKIO (Shinbashi) at 6.45, 8.00, 9.15,* 9.45, and 11.00 a.m., and 12.15, 1.30, 2.45, 4.00, 4.45,* 6.00, 7.15, 8.30, 9.45, and 11.00† p.m.

Those marked with (*) run through without stopping at Tsu-rumi, Kawasaki, and Omori Stations. Those with (†) are the same as above with the exception of stopping at Kawasaki Station.

UYENO-SHINMACHI RAILWAY.

The Trains leave UYENO at 7 and 11.30 a.m. and 4 p.m., and SHINMACHI at 7 and 11.30 a.m. and 4 p.m.

The Fares are:—Special-class (Separate Compartment), yen 3.00; First-class, yen 1.78; Third-class, sen 89.

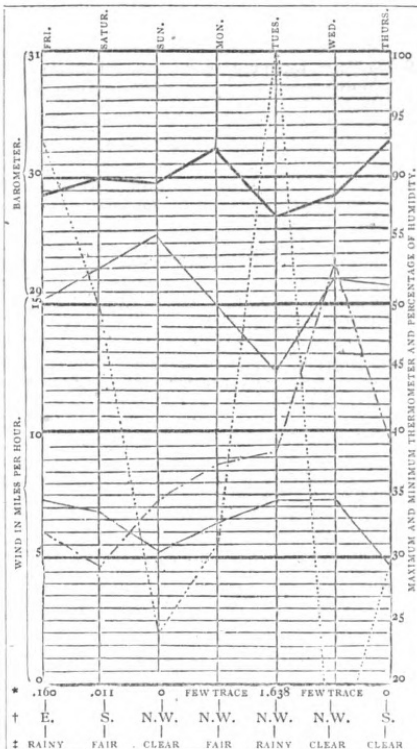
YOKOSUKA STEAMERS.

The Yokosuka steamers leave the English Hatoba daily at 8.15 and 10.45 a.m., and 12.30, 2.30, and 4.30 p.m.; and leave Yokosuka at 6.40 and 9.45 a.m., and 12 m. and 1.45 and 4.15 p.m.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

FOR WEEK BEGINNING FRIDAY, MARCH 28TH, 1884.

Observatory of Daigaku, Moto-Fujicho, Hongô, Tokiyo, Japan.



MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From Europe, via Hongkong, per P. M. Co. Monday, April 7th.*
 From Hongkong, per P. & O. Co. Tuesday, April 8th.†
 From Shanghai, Nagasaki, and Kobe } per M. B. Co. Wednesday, April 9th.
 From America ... per P. M. Co. Friday, April 19th.‡

* City of Peking (with English mail) left Hongkong on April 1st.
 † Kachgar left Hongkong on March 31st. ‡ City of Rio de Janeiro left San Francisco on March 29th.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For Korea, via Coast Ports ... per M. B. Co. Saturday, April 5th.
 For Hakodate ... per M. B. Co. Saturday, April 5th.
 For Kobe ... per M. B. Co. Monday, April 7th.
 For Shanghai, Kobe, and Nagasaki } per M. B. Co. Wednesday, April 9th.
 For Europe, via Hongkong ... per M. M. Co. Saturday, April 12th.
 For America ... per O. & O. Co. Sunday, April 27th.

The arrival and departure of mails by the Occidental and Oriental, the Pacific Mail, and the Peninsular and Oriental Companies, are approximate only.

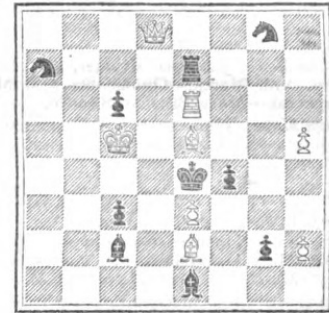
SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICES.

Christ Church: 11 a.m. and 5.30 p.m.
 Union Church: 11 a.m. and 8 p.m.
 Roman Catholic Church: 8 and 9.30 a.m.
 English Church, No. 12, Sakaicho, Shiba, Tokiyo: 11 a.m.

CHESS.

By HERR. J. KOHTZ, of Brunswick.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play, and mate in 3 moves.

Solution to Chess Problem of 29th March, 1884, by J. B. of Bridport.

White. Black.
 1.—B. to Q. B. 3. 1.—K. to Q. 4.
 2.—B. to K. 5. 2.—Anything.
 3.—Mates accordingly. if 1.—K. takes B.
 2.—B. to K. 6. 2.—Anything.
 3.—Q. mates.

Correct answer received from "TESA."

NOTES FROM JAPANESE PAPERS.

Professor Gottsche, who has resigned his appointment in the Department of Science, has been presented by the *Daigaku* with a pair of copper flower-vases, as an acknowledgement of his valuable services whilst in the University.

Noto is a mountainous district inhabited by numbers of deer and wild boars, and, especially about Haguigori, the whole country swarms with game, owing to so few hunters having visited the place of late years. Towards the beginning of the warm season, the deer and boars wander out into the fields and do much injury to the crops; but during last winter more than 300 head were killed, so that the farmers in the vicinity can look forward to a better summer.

Silk is one of the chief productions in Akita Prefecture. In Okatsugori alone the annual silk output weighs some 5,400 *kwamme* (over 45,000 lbs). Some time since the silk-producers engaged a skilled instructors to aid them in improving the quality of the silk, which had grown very coarse, so that silk produced this year on the new system has fetched 70 *sen* in advance of other silks, per 100 *kwamme*.—*Kwampo*.

In reply to a question brought forward by the Court of First Instance in Yamagata, the Judicial Department decided that the sending of defamatory and insulting letters to officials was criminal, and should be dealt with under Article CXLI. of the Penal Code. This decision was based on the argument that the writing is the transcription of an expressed sentiment, and that the sending of defamatory letters amounts, in fine, to making verbal use of the obnoxious expressions in the presence of the defamed party.—*Choya Shimbun*.

During 1883, thirteen foreigners had audiences with H.I.M. the Mikado.

The last section of the Uyeno-Takasaka line of the Nippon Railway Company will be completed on the 15th inst. The opening of the new line will be celebrated on the 18th inst., when H.I.M. the Mikado will go to Takasaki by the first train.

Admiral Yenomoto, Minister to China, who is at present in this country, will return to his post about the middle of this month.

The Tea Exporting Company, which was established by Mr. Fukuda and others in Miye Prefecture, has opened a branch office at Kobe.—*Fiji Shimpô*.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Penelope, British schooner, 84, Miner, 29th March, —Bonin Islands 20th March, General.—Langfeldt & Mayers.

Tamura Maru, Japanese steamer, 560, Dithlefsen, 29th March,—Oginohama 27th March, General.—Mitsu Bishi M. S.S. Co.

Tsuruga Maru, Japanese steamer, Hussey, 29th March,—Kobe 27th March, General.—Mitsu Bishi M. S.S. Co.

Minerva, German brig, 319, P. Duhme, 30th March,—Takao 11th March, 6,600 bags Sugar.—J. E. Collyer & Co.

Niigata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,196, Hubbard, 30th March,—Hakodate 27th and Oginohama 29th March, General.—Mitsu Bishi M. S.S. Co.

Oceanic, British steamer, 2,440, Metcalfe, 30th March,—San Francisco 8th March, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Orient, German bark, 460, W. G. Roder, 30th March,—Takao 14th March, 11,600 bags Sugar.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Velocity, British bark, 490, R. Martin, 30th March,—Takao 13th March, 12,000 bags Sugar.—J. E. Collyer & Co.

Claymore, British steamer, 1,667, Gulland, 31st March,—London via Hongkong 23rd March, General.—Smith, Baker & Co.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 896, R. N. Walker, 31st March,—Kobe 30th March, General.—Mitsu Bishi M. S.S. Co.

Kairio Maru, Japanese steamer, 370, Amano, 31st March,—Kobe 29th March, General.—Handasha.

Saikai Maru, Japanese steamer, 102, Nonaka, 31st March,—Toba 29th March, General.—Yamamotosha.

Sumanoura Maru, Japanese bark, 864, Spiegelthal, 31st March,—Nagasaki 20th March, Coals.—Mitsu Bishi M. S.S. Co.

Lydia, German steamer, 1,196, Thygesen, 1st April,—Kobe 30th March, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Menzaleh, French steamer, 1,382, B. Blanc, 2nd April,—Hongkong 26th March, Mails and General.—Messageries Maritimes Co.

Seirio Maru, Japanese steamer, 459, Tamura, 2nd April,—Yokkaichi 31st March, General.—Mitsu Bishi M. S.S. Co.

Totomi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,960, Steadman, 2nd April,—Hakodate 31st March, General.—Kiyodo Unyu Kwaisha.

Kiyokawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 62, Emada, 3rd April,—Shimidzu 2nd April, General.—Seiriusha.

Seisho Maru, Japanese steamer, 210, Isoda, 3rd April,—Kobe 1st April, General.—Seiriusha.

Yoshino Maru, Japanese steamer, 434, Sakai, 3rd April,—Kobe 1st April, General.—Mitsu Bishi M. S.S. Co.

Gembu Maru, Japanese steamer, 670, Narai, 3rd April,—Yokkaichi 1st April, General.—Kiyodo Unyu Kwaisha.

Nagoya Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,900, Wilson Walker, 3rd April,—Shanghai and ports, Mails and General.—Mitsu Bishi M. S.S. Co.

Onoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 104, Sugimoto, 3rd April,—Fukuda 2nd April, General.—Fukudasha.

Uke Maru, Japanese steamer, 131, Nakamura, 3rd April,—Shimidzu 2nd April, General.—Kiyodo Unyu Kwaisha.

Glenury, British schooner, 283, Thomson, 3rd April,—Takao 17th March, 7,500 piculs Sugar.—E. Flint Kilby & Co.

Wilhelm Homeyer, German bark, 512, W. Holtz, 3rd April,—Takao 8th March, 10,200 piculs Sugar.—J. E. Collyer & Co.

Taganoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 428, Matsumoto, 4th April,—Yokkaichi 2nd April, General.—Mitsu Bishi M. S.S. Co.

Tsuruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 684, P. Hussey, 4th April,—Kobe 2nd April, General.—Mitsu Bishi M. S.S. Co.

Koweki Maru, Japanese steamer, 63, Omura, 5th April,—Handa 2nd April, General.—Kowekisha.

Okame Maru, Japanese steamer, 148, Ichishima, 5th April,—Toba 3rd April, General.—Handasha.

Sekirio Maru, Japanese steamer, 349, Fukui, 4th April,—Hakodate 2nd April, General.—Mitsu Bishi M. S.S. Co.

DEPARTURES.

Asahi Maru, Japanese steamer, 342, Kimura, 29th March,—Kobe, General.—Nakamura-sha.

Kamtchatka, Russian steamer, 702, Ingman, 29th March,—Nagasaki, General.—Walsh, Hall & Co.

Kiyokawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 62, Emada, 29th March,—Shimidzu, General.—Seiriusha.

Seirio Maru, Japanese steamer, 459, Tamura, 29th March,—Yokkaichi, General.—Mitsu Bishi M. S.S. Co.

Walter Siegfried, British bark, 416, P. Hannsen, 29th March,—Guam, Ballast.—J. E. Collyer & Co.

Will o' the Wisp, British steamer, 166, Owston, 26th March,—Hakodate, General.—Owston, Snow & Co.

Yorkshire, British steamer, 1,425, J. H. Arnold, 29th March,—Kobe, General.—Smith, Baker & Co.

Sekirio Maru, Japanese steamer, 349, Fukui, 30th March,—Kobe, General.—Mitsu Bishi M. S.S. Co.

Tsuruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 684, Hussey, 30th March,—Kobe, General.—Mitsu Bishi M. S.S. Co.

Yechigo Maru, Japanese steamer, 684, Lampert, 30th March,—Hakodate and Otaru, General.—Kiyodo Unyu Kwaisha.

Guiding Star, British bark, 312, H. Schnitger, 1st April,—Takao \$10,009.00 Treasure.—J. E. Collyer & Co.

Oceanic, British steamer, 2,440, Metcalfe, 1st April,—Hongkong, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Niigata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,096, Hubbard, 1st April,—Kobe, Mails and General.—Mitsu Bishi M. S.S. Co.

Genkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,914, G. W. Conner, 2nd April,—Shanghai and ports, Mails and General.—Mitsu Bishi M. S.S. Co.

Merionethshire, British steamer, 1,245, Williams, 2nd April,—Kobe, General.—Adamson, Bell & Co.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,096, Christensen, 2nd April.—Yokosuka Docks.—Mitsu Bishi M. S.S. Co.

Lydia, German steamer, 1,196, Thygesen, 3rd April,—Havre, Rotterdam, and Hamburg, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Tayoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 654, Thomas, 2nd April,—Hakodate, General.—Mitsu Bishi M. S.S. Co.

Kosuge Maru, Japanese steamer, 834, Kawaoka Hikoza, 3rd April,—Kobe, General.—Kiyodo Unyu Kwaisha.

Seirio Maru, Japanese steamer, 459, Tamura, 3rd April,—Yokkaichi, General.—Mitsu Bishi M. S.S. Co.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 896, R. N. Walker, 3rd April,—Hakodate, Mails and General.—Mitsu M. Bishi S.S. Co.

Kiyokawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 62, Emada, 3rd April,—Shimidzu, General.—Seiriusha.

Saikai Maru, Japanese steamer, 102, Nonaka, 3rd April,—Toba, General.—Yamamotosha.

Gembu Maru, Japanese steamer, 670, Narai, 4th April,—Yokkaichi, General.—Kiyodo Unyu Kwaisha.

Kairio Maru, Japanese steamer, 370, Amano, 4th April,—Handa, General.—Handasha.

Khiva, British steamer, 2,609, P. Harris, 5th April,—Hongkong via Kobe and Nagasaki, Mails and General.—P. & O. S. N. Co.

Taganoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 459, Matsumoto, 4th April,—Yokkaichi, General.—Mitsu Bishi M. S.S. Co.

Tamura Maru, Japanese steamer, 560, Dithlefsen, 4th April,—Hachinohe, General.—Mitsu Bishi M. S.S. Co.

Totomi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,960, Steadman, 4th April,—Kobe, Mails and General.—Kiyodo Unyu Kwaisha.

Uke Maru, Japanese steamer, 131, Nakamura, 4th April,—Shimidzu, General.—Kiyodo Unyu Kwaisha.

Seisho Maru, Japanese steamer, 210, Isoda, 5th April,—Yokkaichi, General.—Seikisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *Tamura Maru*, from Oginohama :—12 Japanese.

Per Japanese steamer *Tsuruga Maru*, from Kobe :—42 Japanese.

Per Japanese steamer *Niigata Maru*, from Hakodate via Oginohama :—Messrs. Aritake, Mayebara, Ishikawa, Sugawa, Yamakawa, and Misawa in cabin ; and 82 Japanese in steerage.

Per British steamer *Oceanic*, from San Francisco :—Mr. and Mrs. A. Rottmann, Messrs. J. Mayers, H. M. Kersey, Thomas McGrath, P. Schlichter, and Frank W. Harrell, M.D. in cabin ; and 6 Japanese in steerage. For Hongkong : Messrs. J. A. Wilson and A. Robinson in cabin ; and 200 Chinese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Hiogo Maru*, from Kobe :—Messrs. Schniten and son, Pojarsky, Chamberlain, Watanabe, Yoshizaki, Hirai, and 106 Japanese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Kairio Maru*, from Kobe :—48 Japanese.

Per Japanese steamer *Saikai Maru*, from Toba :—25 Japanese.

Per German steamer *Lydia*, from Kobe :—12 Japanese in steerage.

Per French steamer *Menzaleh*, from Hongkong :—Madame Blat, Messrs. P. Grillo Garberoglio and Pustau in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Seirio Maru*, from Yokkaichi :—68 Japanese.

Per Japanese steamer *Totomi Maru*, from Hakodate :—63 Japanese.

Per Japanese steamer *Seisho Maru*, from Kobe :—18 Japanese.

Per Japanese steamer *Yoshino Maru*, from Kobe :—48 Japanese.

Per Japanese steamer *Gembu Maru*, from Yokkaichi :—82 Japanese.

Per Japanese steamer *Nagoya Maru*, from Shanghai and ports :—Mr. and Mrs. Simpson and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. Cutter, Miss Lena Cobden, Mr. W. H. Morse and servant, Mr. A. P. Adams and servant, Mr. Kawada Koichiro and servant, Messrs. John Walker, Duncan Glass, G. S. Piper, D. S. MacPhee, G. Prat, H. Blum, M. Mariaus, W. Alexander, R. H. Adams, Yoshikawa, Tsuge, Saijo, and Ota in cabin ; and 2 Europeans, 11 Chinese, and 188 Japanese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Onoura Maru*, from Fukuda :—19 Japanese.

Per Japanese steamer *Uke Maru*, from Shimidzu :—28 Japanese.

Per Japanese steamer *Taganoura Maru*, from Yokkaichi :—78 Japanese.

Per Japanese steamer *Tsuruga Maru*, from Kobe :—34 Japanese.

Per Japanese steamer *Koweki Maru*, from Handa :—46 Japanese.

Per Japanese steamer *Okame Maru*, from Toba :—28 Japanese.

Per Japanese steamer *Sekirio Maru*, from Hakodate :—56 Japanese.

DEPARTED.

Per Japanese steamer *Sekirio Maru*, for Oginohama :—Mr. Y. Kawamura in cabin ; and 25 Japanese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Tsuruga Maru*, for Kobe :—20 Japanese.

Per British steamer *Oceanic*, for Hongkong :—Messrs. J. A. Wilson, and A. Robinson in cabin ; and 200 Chinese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Genkai Maru*, for Shanghai and ports :—Mrs. Conrad and daughter, Miss Shaw, Messrs. W. J. Manifold, G. H. Rhodes, A. Clark, and Kobayashi in cabin.

Per British steamer *Khiva*, for Hongkong via Kobe and Nagasaki :—Rev. and Mrs. Wladimer and 2 native missionaries, Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Watson and child, Mr. and Mrs. Potter, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas and servant, Messrs. Dolling, Shaw, Buchanan, Owens, Mynoes, Pollock, H. M. Kerser, Schlichter, Hellyer, Tanabe, and Lye Lin in cabin ; and 12 Japanese and 2 Chinese in steerage.

CARGOES.

Per Japanese steamer *Genkai Maru*, for Shanghai and ports :—\$218,800.00.

Per French steamer *Menzaleh*, from Hongkong :—6,899 packages.

Per British steamer *Khiva*, for Hongkong via Kobe and Nagasaki :—29 bales for France.

REPORTS.

The Japanese steamer *Niigata Maru*, Captain J. C. Hubbard, reports leaving Hakodate on the 27th March, at 10.15 a.m. with fresh S.E. winds and foggy weather to Sanemura Point ; thence strong N. and N.W. winds to Oginohama where arrived on the 28th, at 1.30 p.m. and left on the 29th, at 6 a.m. with light variable winds and cloudy weather till arrival. Arrived at Yokohama on the 30th March, at 11 a.m. Passed *Takasago Maru* on the 29th March, at 11 a.m.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

The general tone of the Market has been steady, but there has not been a large amount of business passing in any department.

COTTON YARNS.—The firm tone of holders and the small supply of spinnings in demand has limited transactions in English Yarns. Buyers are offering fair prices for early arrival. Bombay 20's have become rather dull, but a small demand has sprung up for 16's of certain spinnings.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.—Velvets are difficult of sale at lower rates; a fair quantity of Turkey Reds have again been disposed of; some small sales of Grey Shirtings gibs. have been made at quotations, but the demand has been small.

WOOLLENS.—There is no change to report, Mousseline de Laine being the only article in moderate demand.

COTTON YARNS.

| | PER PICUL. |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| Nos. 16/24, Ordinary | \$26.00 to 27.00 |
| Nos. 16/24, Medium | 28.00 to 29.50 |
| Nos. 16/24, Good to Best | 29.75 to 30.75 |
| Nos. 16/24, Reverse | 29.50 to 30.50 |
| Nos. 28/32, Ordinary | 29.00 to 30.00 |
| Nos. 28/32, Medium | 30.50 to 32.00 |
| Nos. 28/32, Good to Best | 32.50 to 33.75 |
| Nos. 38/42, Medium to Best | 35.00 to 37.00 |
| No. 32s, Two-fold | 33.25 to 35.50 |
| No. 42s, Two-fold | 37.50 to 39.50 |
| No. 20s, Bombay | 26.00 to 28.00 |
| No. 16s, Bombay | 24.50 to 26.50 |
| Nos. 10/12, Bombay | 22.00 to 23.50 |

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

| | PER PIECE. |
|--|------------------|
| Grey Shirtings—8 1/2 lb, 38 1/2 to 39 inches | \$1.70 to 2.15 |
| Grey Shirtings—9 lb, 38 1/2 to 45 inches | 1.85 to 2.30 |
| T. Cloth—7 lb, 24 yards, 32 inches | 1.35 to 1.45 |
| Indigo Shirting—12 yards, 44 inches | 1.50 to 1.75 |
| Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches | 1.10 to 1.40 |
| Cotton—Italians and Sateens Black, 32 inches | 0.07 to 0.09 |
| Turkey Reds—2 to 2 1/2 lb, 24 yards, 30 inches | 1.20 to 1.45 |
| Turkey Reds—2 1/2 to 3 lb, 24 yards, 30 inches | 1.50 to 2.00 |
| Turkey Reds—3 lb, 24 yards, 30 inches | 1.70 to 1.82 1/2 |
| Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches | 6.50 to 7.50 |
| Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches | 0.65 to 0.70 |
| Taffachelas, 12 yards, 43 inches | 1.75 to 2.05 |

WOOLLENS.

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Plain Orleans, 40-42 yards, 32 inches | \$3.50 to 5.50 |
| Figured Orleans, 29-31 yards, 31 inches | 3.25 to 4.00 |
| Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches | 0.18 to 0.28 |
| Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 31 inches | 0.14 to 0.15 |
| Mousseline de Laine—Itajime, 24 yards, 31 inches | 0.18 1/2 to 0.25 |
| Mousseline de Laine—Yuzen, 24 yards, 31 inches | 0.30 to 0.38 1/2 |
| Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches | 0.30 to 0.40 |
| Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches | 0.40 to 0.50 |
| Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches | 0.30 to 0.55 |
| Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 6 to 5 lb, per lb | 0.35 to 0.40 |

IRON.

| | PER PICUL. |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| Flat Bars, 1/2 inch | \$2.50 to 2.85 |
| Flat Bars, 3/4 inch | 2.80 to 2.90 |
| Round and square up to 1/2 inch | 2.80 to 2.90 |
| Nailrod, assorted | 2.35 to 2.60 |
| Nailrod, small size | 2.85 to 3.15 |

KEROSENE.

The Oil Market remains without change. No sales, and deliveries during the week amount to only 12,000 cases. Quotations are nominal.

| | PER CASE. |
|--------|-----------|
| Devoe | \$1.75 |
| Comet | 1.72 |
| Stella | 1.68 |

SUGAR.

The Market is still dull, and the copious arrivals of Formosa, with slow sale, have had the effect of lowering the quotations for that kind, between 50 and 60 thousand bags having accumulated. The prices for Whites remain unchanged.

| | PER PICUL. |
|---------------|----------------|
| White, No. 1 | \$8.00 to 8.35 |
| White, No. 2 | 6.75 to 7.00 |
| White, No. 3 | 6.30 to 6.50 |
| White, No. 4 | 5.80 to 6.00 |
| White, No. 5 | 4.60 to 4.75 |
| Brown Formosa | 3.40 to 3.45 |

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Since our last issue, on 26th March, there has been rather more business in this Market. Settlements for the eight days reaching a total of 200 piculs. Buying for the *Arabic* was completed at full rates, and since her departure there has been a brisk enquiry for the same destination, buyers paying long prices for some favorite chops. *Kinsatsu* have steadied, and holders of *Hank* sorts are

apparently more disposed to entertain business, especially for the Good Medium grades.

The bulk of the Settlement has been returned in *Filature* kinds, the remainder consisting of *Hanks* with a modicum of *Kakedas*. Arrivals have been very small, and the Stock is reduced to 1,500 piculs.

The M.M. steamer *Volga*, which left for Hongkong on the morning of the 29th ultimo, carried no more than 14 bales entered as going to France. The O. & O. steamer *Arabic* with the American mail of 28th ultimo took a fair shipment consisting of 407 bales, and of these 18 bales were direct shipment on native account. The Export now stands at a total of 28,484 bales, against 24,710 bales last year, and 16,374 bales at 3rd April, 1882.

Hanks.—Business done amounts to about 50 piculs on the basis of quotations given below. The business done by foreigners has been in Good Medium kinds, and a fairly large parcel has been sold to a native dealer, the prices paid for *Hachoji* being reported as equivalent to \$465. Among the sales we observe *Shinshu*, \$520; *Annaka*, \$500.

Filatures.—These have again commanded the greater share of buyer's attention, and the Stock of desirable kinds is much reduced. Settlements are quite 150 piculs, and all grades must be quoted at an advance over last week's prices. *Tokosha* has cleared out the balance of his holding at \$650 for regular cargo, with \$570 for defective and rejections. Prices have been somewhat irregular, a parcel of *Hida*, which some time back was offered at \$580, being now settled at \$630. *Tajima* and *Hikone* are noted at the same figure. *Oshu* sorts a t \$600, with Medium *Koshu* at \$590, and Common *Foshu* at \$580 to \$570, complete the list.

Re-reels.—The only transaction reported is a very medium parcel of *Koshu* at \$580, and even this may be rejected on inspection. Stocks of Good *Maibash* are reduced to nothing, although some small arrivals are looked for during the current month. Prices in the absence of supplies are all more or less nominal.

Kakeda.—Beyond one small purchase at \$600, the list is a blank. Stock remains practically unchanged—there are a few enquiries, but the divergence between the view of buyers and sellers appears insurmountable just now.

Oshu and Coarse Kinds.—Once more we have to report no business. Shipments coastwise are not so large, but arrivals do not come in to any extent, and there is very little Stock in Yokohama of these descriptions.

QUOTATIONS.

| | Nominal |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| Hanks—No. 1 | 520 to 530 |
| Hanks—No. 2 (Shinshu) | 510 to 520 |
| Hanks—No. 2 (Joshu) | 500 to 510 |
| Hanks—No. 2 1/2 (Shinshu) | 490 to 500 |
| Hanks—No. 2 1/2 (Joshu) | 470 to 480 |
| Hanks—No. 3 | 460 to 465 |
| Hanks—No. 3 1/2 | 650 to 660 |
| Filatures—Extra | Nom. |
| Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers | 640 to 650 |
| Filatures—No. 1, 14/16 deniers | 630 to 635 |
| Filatures—No. 1, 14/17 deniers | 620 to 625 |
| Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers | 580 to 590 |
| Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers | 570 to 580 |
| Filatures—No. 3, 14/20 deniers | 560 to 570 |
| Re-reels—No. 1, 14/16 deniers | Nom. |
| Re-reels—No. 1, 14/17 deniers | Nom. |
| Re-reels—No. 1, 14/18 deniers | Nom. |
| Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers | Nom. |
| Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers | Nom. |
| Kakedas—Extra | Nom. |
| Kakedas—No. 1 | 620 to 630 |
| Kakedas—No. 2 | 590 to 600 |
| Kakedas—No. 3 | 560 to 570 |
| Oshu Sendai—No. 2 1/2 | — |
| Hamatsuki—No. 1, 2 | — |
| Hamatsuki—No. 3, 4 | — |
| Sodai—No. 2 1/2 | — |

Export Tables Raw Silk to 3rd April, 1884:—

| | SEASON 1883-84. | 1882-83. | 1881-82. |
|------------------|-----------------|----------|----------|
| | BALES. | BALES. | BALES. |
| France and Italy | 16,885 | 12,651 | 8,268 |
| America | 8,900 | 8,191 | 5,093 |
| England | 2,639 | 3,868 | 3,013 |
| Total | 28,484 | 24,710 | 16,374 |

WASTE SILK.

We note an increased trade in this branch, the Settlements for eight days reaching 400 piculs; an average of 50 piculs per diem being a very good business for the time of year. The purchases have been about equally divided between *Noshi* and *Kibiso*, other sorts not participating. Dealers are beginning to unload some of their holdings in low Waste at prices which look dear, having regard to the mixed quality. The arrival of a few bales good *Noshi* was notified, but we learn that they have been sent on to Kioto without being offered on this Market.

The M.M. steamer of 29th ultimo carried 92 bales bringing Export to date up to 21,601 piculs, against 21,449 piculs last year, and 20,788 piculs in 1882. Supplies have been more plentiful during

the week, and the Stock on offer is not reduced below 500 piculs.

Noshi.—The chief feature has been the final Settlement of about 100 piculs fine *Foshu* and *Hachoji*, at \$115; negotiations had been pending for a long time, but the bargain was at last concluded and part of the lot went forward by the *Volga*. A small line in *Oshu*, at \$150; and some medium *Foshu*, at \$80 to \$85, bring up the rear. *Filatures* are reported settled for the interior on basis of \$155 for a parcel *Utsunomiya*.

Kibiso.—Considerable purchases have been made chiefly in the lower grades, but the quality is very unsatisfactory; we fancy the lots purchased will entail great trouble in sorting and cleaning. From the list we cull the following:—*Oshu*, \$82 1/2, \$60; *Yechigo*, \$52; *Goshu*, \$47 1/2; *Foshu*, \$37; *Kaga*, \$29, \$23, \$22; *Hachoji*, \$27 1/2. *Neri* is in request, and some small parcels have been put through at \$14 1/2 to \$11, uncleaned.

QUOTATIONS.

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Pierced Cocoons—Medium to Fair | None. |
| Noshi-ito—Filature, Best | Nom. 160 |
| Noshi-ito—Filature, Good | Nom. 140 |
| Noshi-ito—Filature, Medium | Nom. 130 |
| Noshi-ito—Oshu, Good to Best | 140 to 150 |
| Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Best | Nom. 115 |
| Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Good | Nom. 100 |
| Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Medium | 90 |
| Noshi-ito—Joshu, Best | 110 to 115 |
| Noshi-ito—Joshu, Good | 90 |
| Noshi-ito—Joshu, Ordinary | 80 to 85 |
| Kibiso—Filature, Best selected | Nom. 125 |
| Kibiso—Filature, Seconds | Nom. 115 to 120 |
| Kibiso—Oshu, Good | Nom. 95 |
| Kibiso—Shinshu, Best | Nom. 85 |
| Kibiso—Shinshu, Seconds | 65 to 70 |
| Kibiso—Joshu, Fair to Common | 50 to 55 |
| Kibiso—Hachoji, Medium to Low | 25 to 30 |
| Kibiso—Neri, Good to Common | 18 to 12 |
| Mawata—Good to Best | Nom. 170 to 180 |

Export Table Waste Silk to 3rd April, 1884:—

| | SEASON 1883-1884. | 1882-1883. | 1881-1882. |
|-----------------|-------------------|------------|------------|
| | PICULS. | PICULS. | PICULS. |
| Waste Silk | 19,406 | 18,248 | 17,325 |
| Pierced Cocoons | 2,195 | 3,201 | 3,463 |
| Total | 21,601 | 21,449 | 20,788 |

Exchange weakened until a couple of days ago, when things improved suddenly about one-half per cent. from the lowest point. Present quotations are:—LONDON, 4 m/s., Credits, 3/8 1/2; Documents, 3/8 1/2; NEW YORK, 30 d/s., 88 1/2; 60 d/s., 89; PARIS, 4 m/s., fcs. 4.05; 6 m/s., fcs. 4.68. *Kinsatsu* have been fairly steady at about 109 per \$100.

Estimated Silk Stock 3rd April, 1884:—

| | RAW. | PICULS. | WASTE. | PICULS. |
|---------------------|-------|---------|-----------------|---------|
| Hanks | 1,100 | — | Pierced Cocoons | — |
| Filature & Re-reels | 160 | — | Noshi-ito | 40 |
| Kakeda | 140 | — | Kibiso | 440 |
| Sendai & Hamatsuki | 100 | — | Mawata | 20 |
| Taysaam Kinds | — | — | — | — |
| Total piculs | 1,500 | — | Total piculs | 500 |

TEA.

There is no new feature of any importance to note in the position of our Market. We give the Settlements as reported for the past week, viz.:—Common 25, Medium 125, Good Medium 35, total 185 piculs, for which buyers have been found at unaltered quotations. The equivalent of 80 piculs arrived during the week. There appears to have been a cold wave swept over the New York Tea Market, for judging from the latest wire information from that port the Market has collapsed. Everything now seems to point to a quiet and dragging course of the Market for the remainder of the season. The following were the number of pounds Tea shipped on the *Arabic*, which sailed on the 28th ultimo:—for New York 48,109 lbs., for Chicago 8,325 lbs., for Portland (Oregon) 1,000 lbs., for California 67,465 lbs., and for Canada 7,170 lbs., making a total of 132,069 lbs. Fired Tea.

QUOTATIONS.

| | |
|-------------|--------------|
| Common | \$14 & under |
| Good Common | 16 to 18 |
| Medium | 20 to 22 |
| Good Medium | Nominal |

EXCHANGE.

The transactions during the week have been extremely small, and the rates close steady at the following rates:—

| | |
|---|------------|
| Sterling—Bank Bills on demand | 3/7 1/2 |
| Sterling—Bank 4 months' sight | 3/8 |
| Sterling—Private 4 months' sight | 3/8 1/2 |
| Sterling—Private 6 months' sight | 3/8 1/2 |
| On Paris—Bank sight | 4/56 |
| On Paris—Private 6 months' sight | 4/67 |
| On Hongkong—Bank sight | Par |
| On Hongkong—Private to days' sight | 1/2 % dis. |
| On Shanghai—Bank sight | 72 1/2 |
| On Shanghai—Private to days' sight | 73 |
| On New York—Bank Bills on demand | 87 1/2 |
| On New York—Private 30 days' sight | 88 1/2 |
| On San Francisco—Bank Bills on demand | 87 1/2 |
| On San Francisco—Private 30 days' sight | 88 1/2 |

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